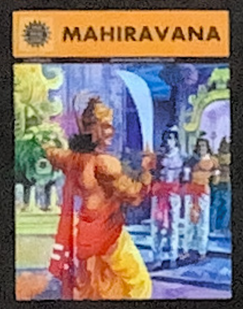
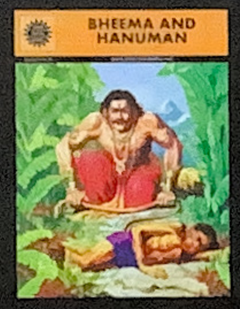
EPICS & MYTHOLOGY

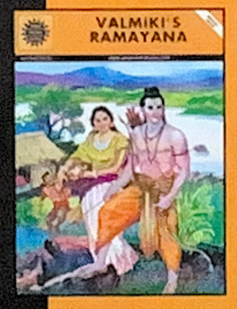
HANUMAN

Hanuman stands for extraordinary physical strength, courage and humility. Above all, he is known for his devotion to Rama. So, it was little wonder that Rama entrusted Hanuman with the task of carrying his message to Sita in Lanka. Again, it was Hanuman who brought him the life-giving Sanjeevani to revive his beloved brother Lakshmana who had been grievously injured on the battlefield. Even today, Hanuman is regarded as the epitome of unfaltering devotion and unparalleled strength.

OTHER ACK EPICS & MYTHOLOGY:







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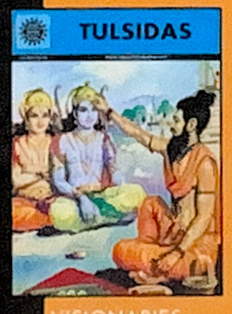

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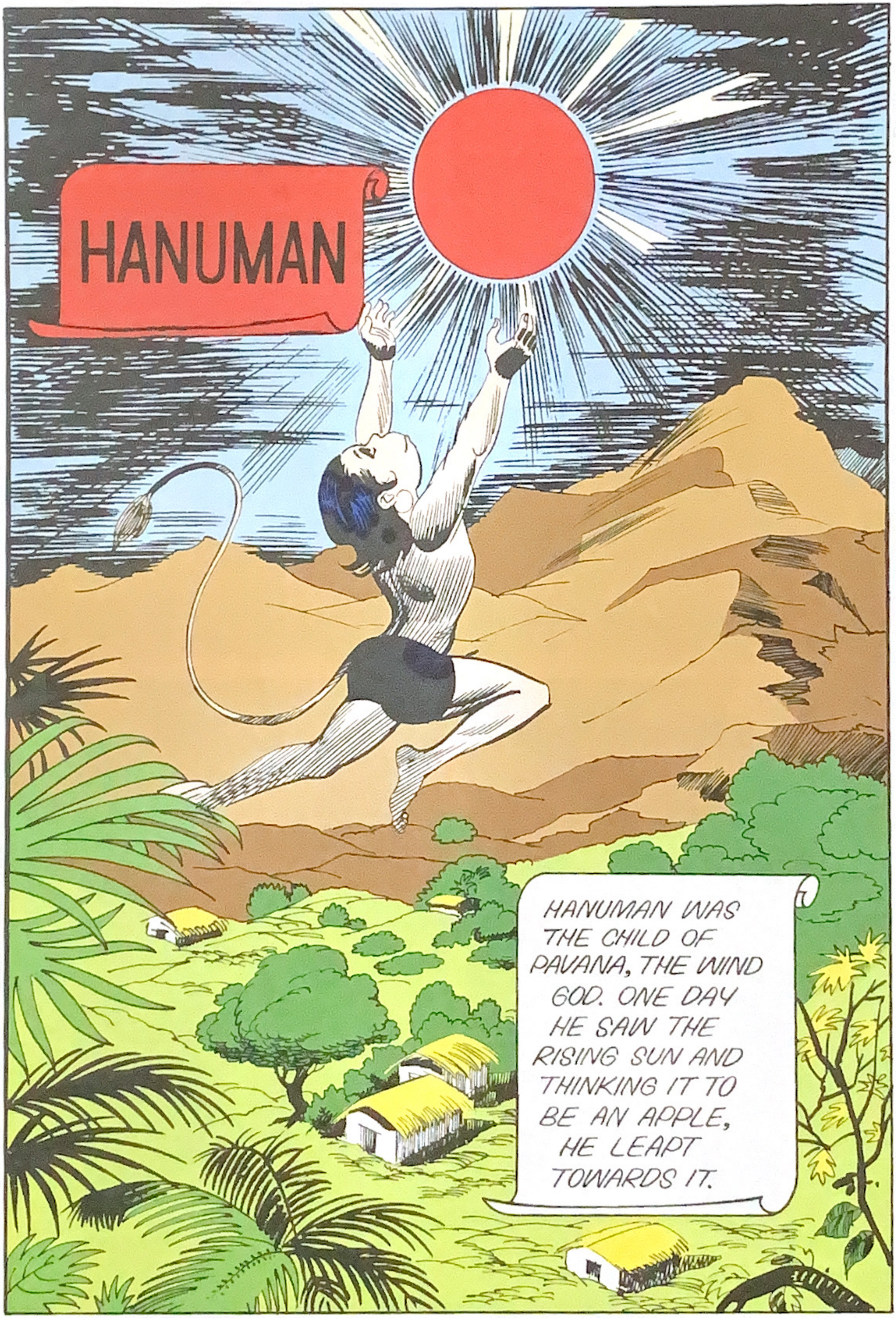
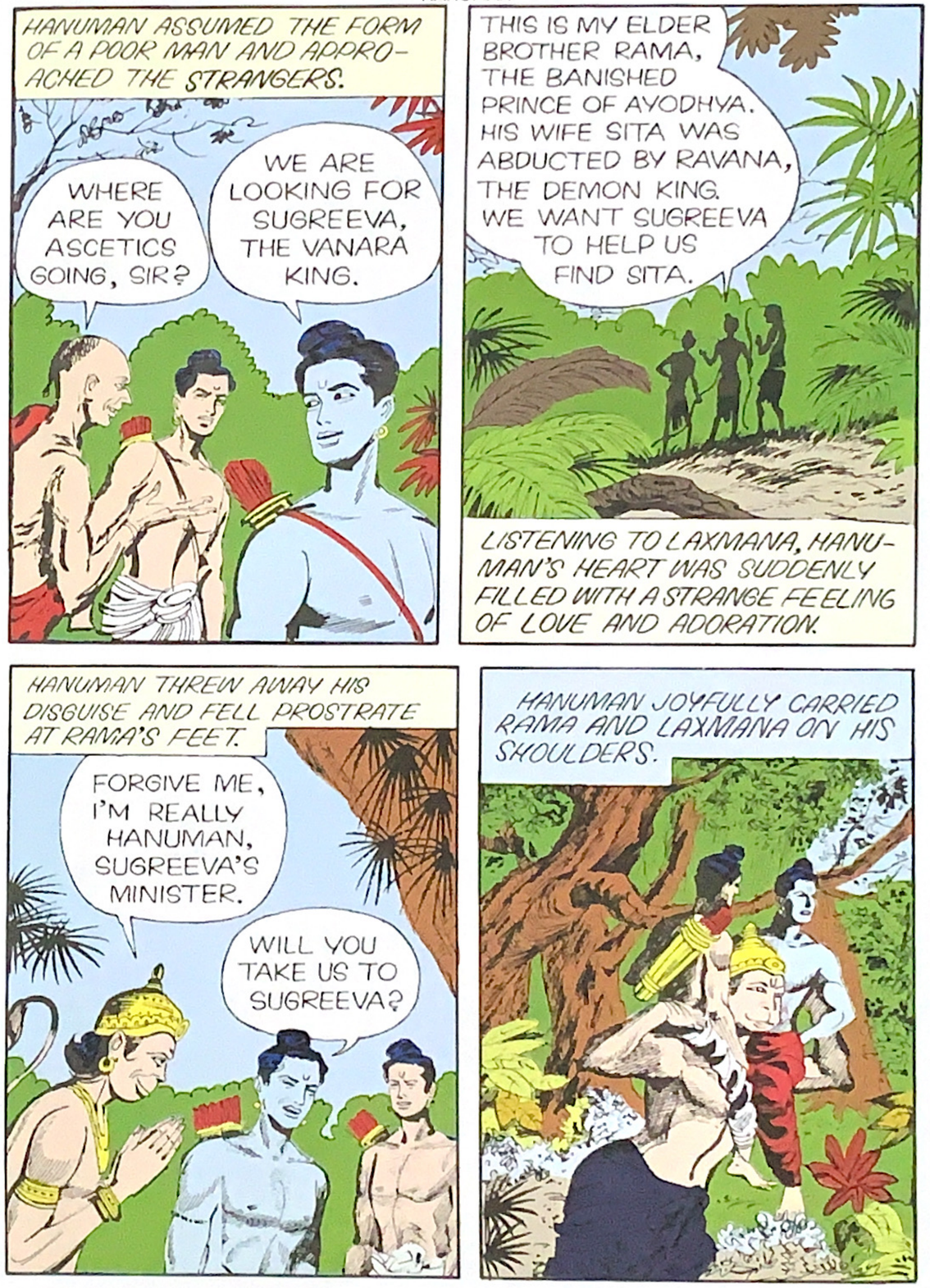
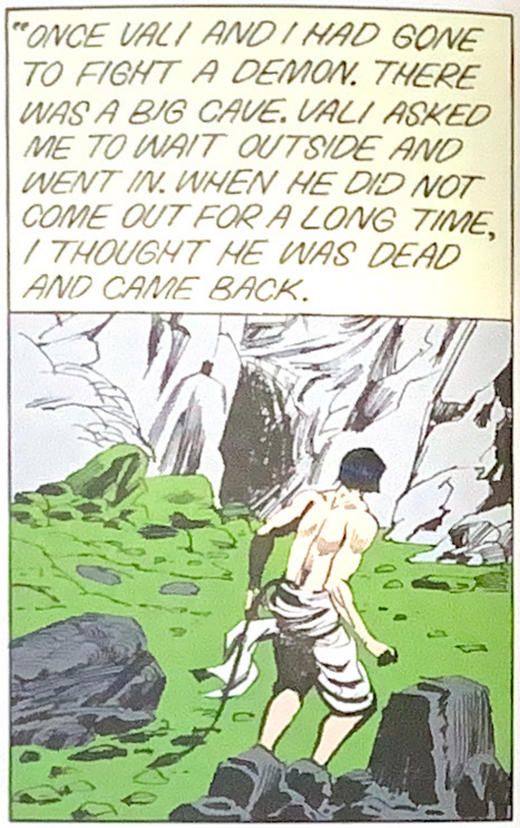

HANUMAN
HANUMAN WAS THE CHILD OF PAVANA, THE WIND GOD. ONE DAY HE SAW THE RISING SUN AND THINKING IT TO BE AN APPLE, HE LEAPT TOWARDS IT.

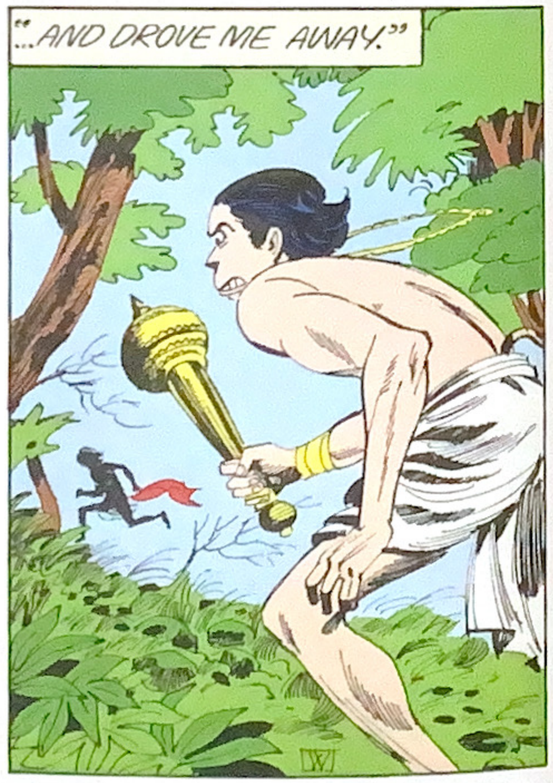
AS HE GREW, HIS STRENGTH GREW WITH HIM. ONE DAY, WITH HIS BARE HANDS, HE SAVED PRINCE SUGREEVA, FROM THE CHARGE OF A WILD ELEPHANT.
THANKS FOR YOUR TIMELY HELP, HANUMAN!
PRINCE SUGREEVA, I'M HONOURED!
WHEN VALI, THE KING OF KISHKINDHA BANISHED HIS BROTHER, SUGREEVA, FROM HIS KINGDOM, HANUMAN WENT WITH HIM TO THE JUNGLES NEAR THE RIVER PAMPA. THERE THEY LIVED A HARD LIFE.
ONE DAY—
THERE ARE TWO MEN COMING THIS WAY.
HAVE THEY COME FROM VALI? HANUMAN! PLEASE GO AND FIND OUT WHO THEY ARE.


HANUMAN ASSUMED THE FORM OF A POOR MAN AND APPROACHED THE STRANGERS.
WHERE ARE YOU ASCETICS GOING, SIR?
WE ARE LOOKING FOR SUGREEVA, THE VANARA KING.
THIS IS MY ELDER BROTHER RAMA, THE BANISHED PRINCE OF AYODHYA. HIS WIFE SITA WAS ABDUCTED BY RAVANA, THE DEMON KING. WE WANT SUGREEVA TO HELP US FIND SITA.
LISTENING TO LAXMANA, HANUMAN'S HEART WAS SUDDENLY FILLED WITH A STRANGE FEELING OF LOVE AND ADORATION.
HANUMAN THREW AWAY HIS DISGUISE AND FELL PROSTRATE AT RAMA'S FEET.
FORGIVE ME, I'M REALLY HANUMAN, SUGREEVA'S MINISTER.
WILL YOU TAKE US TO SUGREEVA?
HANUMAN JOYFULLY CARRIED RAMA AND LAXMANA ON HIS SHOULDERS.

IT WAS A HAPPY MEETING. THE TWO BROTHERS KNEW, THEY HAD FOUND FRIENDS.
WILL YOU HELP ME KILL VALI?
WHY DO YOU WANT TO KILL YOUR BROTHER?

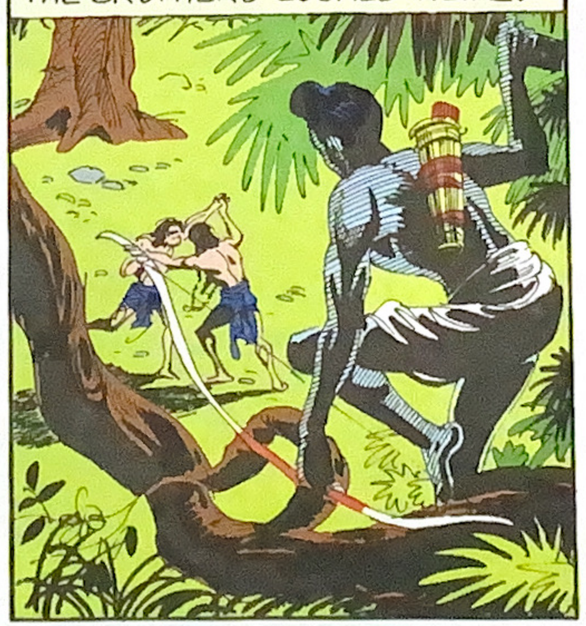

"ONCE VALI AND I HAD GONE TO FIGHT A DEMON. THERE WAS A BIG CAVE. VALI ASKED ME TO WAIT OUTSIDE AND WENT IN. WHEN HE DID NOT COME OUT FOR A LONG TIME, I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD AND CAME BACK.

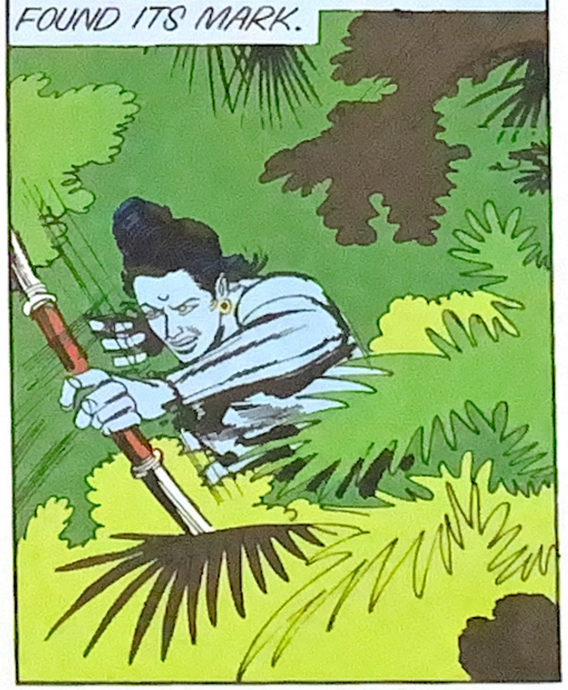
"THE THRONE COULD NOT REMAIN VACANT. THE PEOPLE CROWNED ME AS KING. THEN ONE DAY VALI CAME BACK..."


"...AND DROVE ME AWAY."

SINCE THEN I HAVE BEEN RUNNING FROM HIM. WILL YOU HELP ME TO KILL HIM?
YES, I WILL!

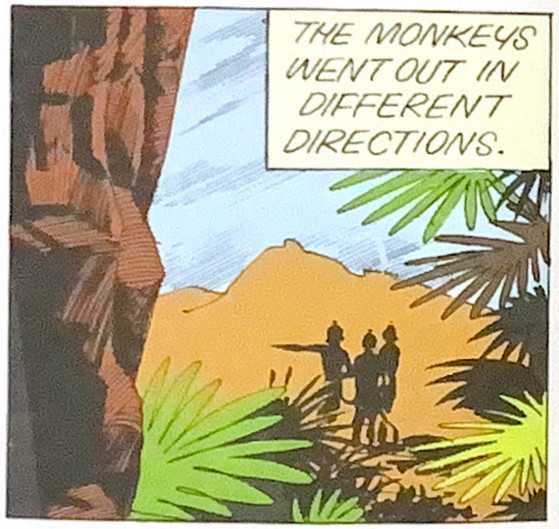
SUGREEVA BROUGHT A SMALL BUNDLE TO RAMA.
WE SAW A LADY BEING CARRIED AWAY IN RAVANA'S CHARIOT. SHE THREW THESE DOWN TO US.
YES, THESE ARE SITA'S JEWELS.

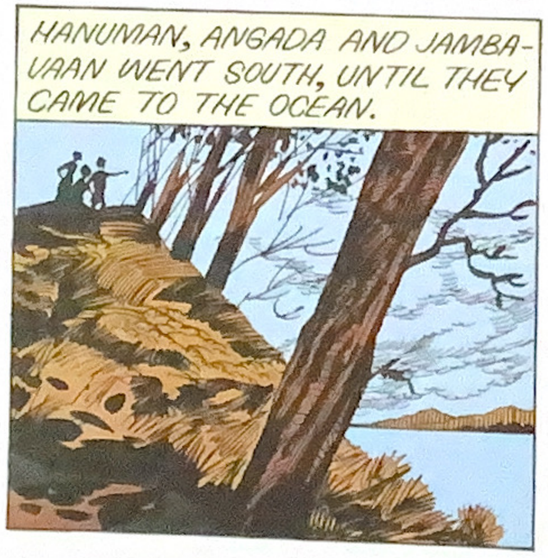

SUGREEVA CALLED VALI TO A DUEL. RAMA WAITED FOR A CHANCE TO KILL VALI. BUT HE COULD NOT RECOGNISE HIM. BOTH THE BROTHERS LOOKED ALIKE.

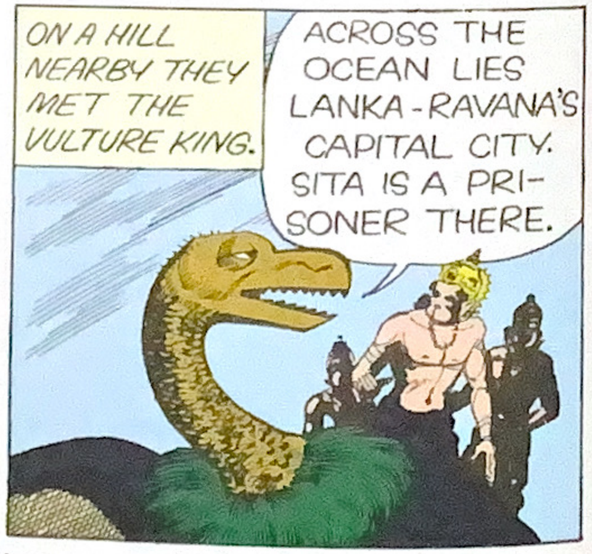

FOR THE NEXT ROUND, RAMA GAVE SUGREEVA A GARLAND TO WEAR. THIS TIME HIS ARROW FOUND ITS MARK.

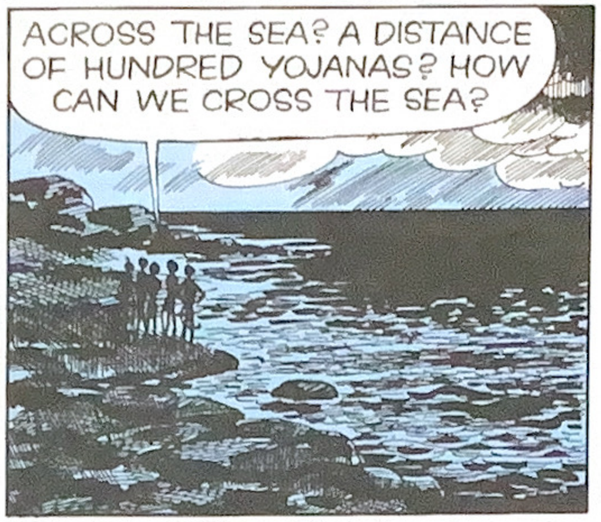
SUGREEVA WAS CROWNED THE KING OF KISHKINDHA. VALI'S SON ANGADA BECAME THE CROWN PRINCE.
LONG LIVE KING SUGREEVA!
LONG LIVE PRINCE ANGADA!

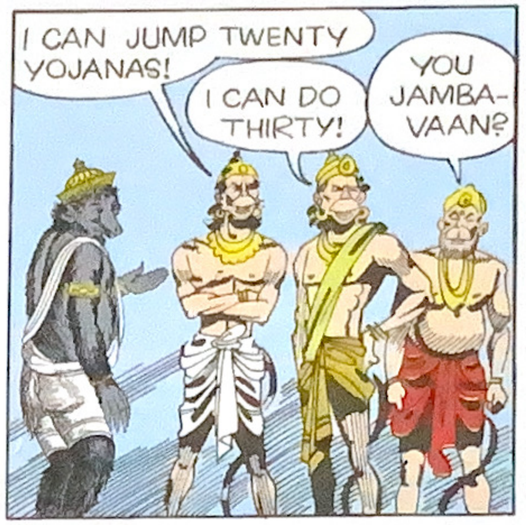
SUGREEVA SENT HIS BRAVE MONKEYS TO SEARCH SITA IN THE FOUR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.
WE MUST LOOK EVERYWHERE!
WE MUST FIND HER!

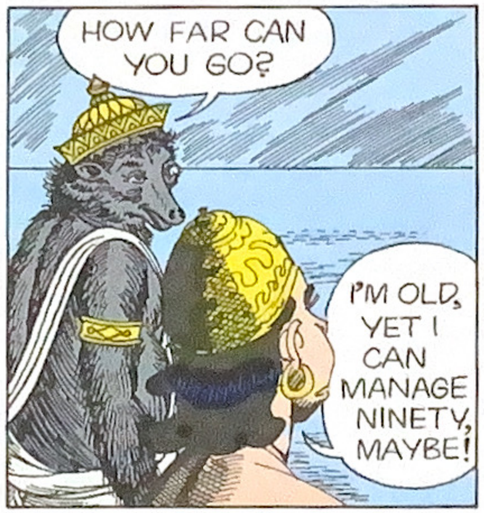

THE MONKEYS WENT OUT IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS.

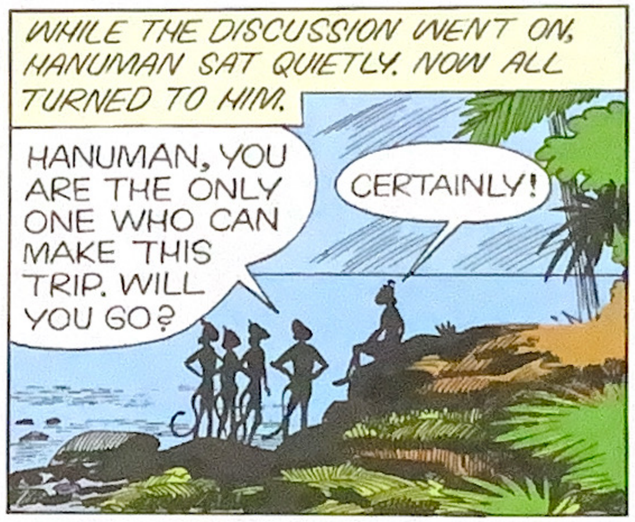

HANUMAN, ANGADA AND JAMBAVAAN WENT SOUTH, UNTIL THEY CAME TO THE OCEAN.

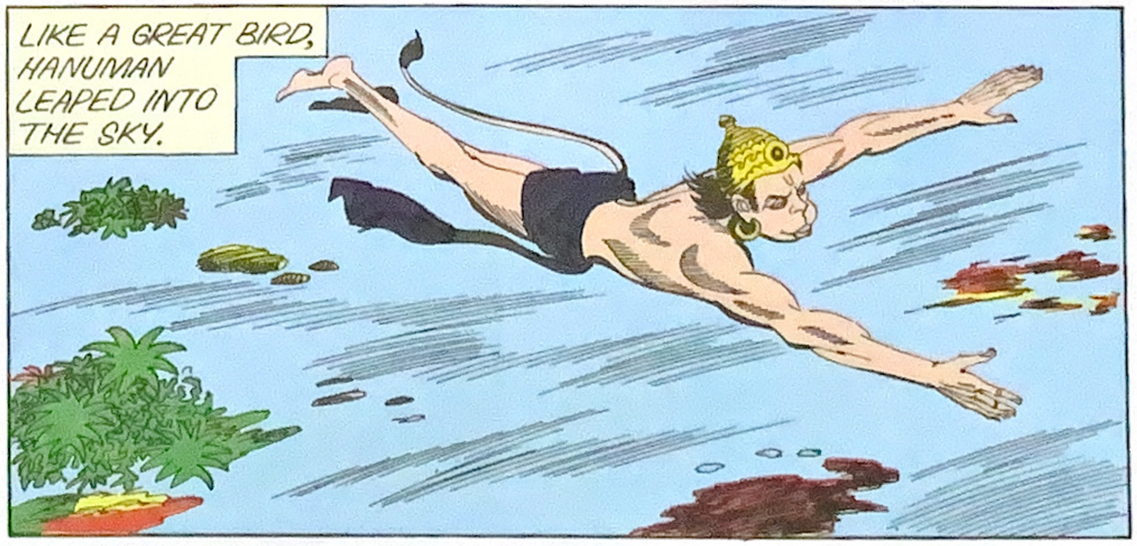

ON A HILL NEARBY THEY MET THE VULTURE KING.
ACROSS THE OCEAN LIES LANKA-RAVANA'S CAPITAL CITY. SITA IS A PRISONER THERE.

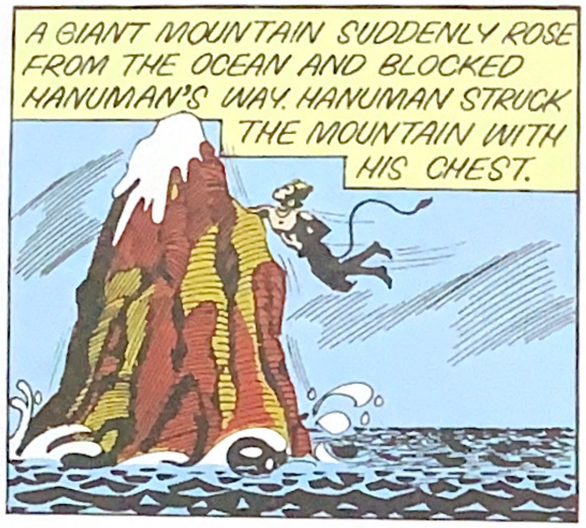

ACROSS THE SEA? A DISTANCE OF HUNDRED YOJANAS? HOW CAN WE CROSS THE SEA?

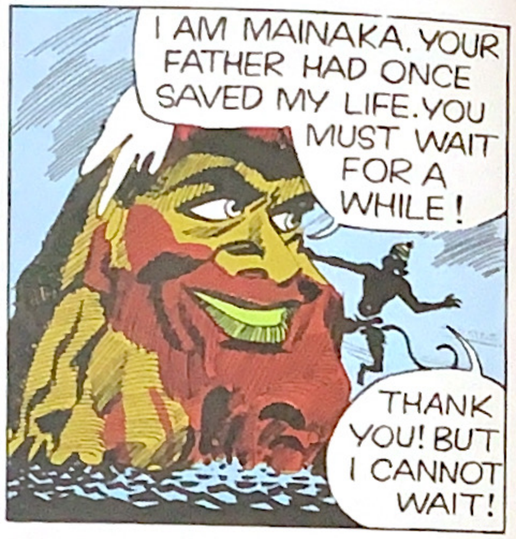

I CAN JUMP TWENTY YOJANAS!
I CAN DO THIRTY!
YOU JAMBAVAAN?

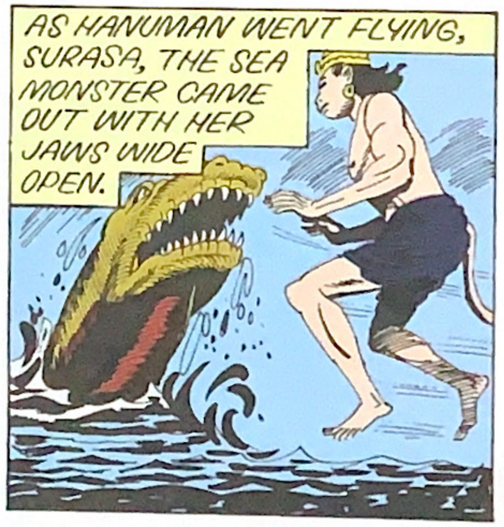

HOW FAR CAN YOU GO?
I'M OLD, YET I CAN MANAGE NINETY, MAYBE!


WHILE THE DISCUSSION WENT ON, HANUMAN SAT QUIETLY. NOW ALL TURNED TO HIM.
HANUMAN, YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN MAKE THIS TRIP. WILL YOU GO?
CERTAINLY!


LIKE A GREAT BIRD, HANUMAN LEAPED INTO THE SKY.


A GIANT MOUNTAIN SUDDENLY ROSE FROM THE OCEAN AND BLOCKED HANUMAN'S WAY. HANUMAN STRUCK THE MOUNTAIN WITH HIS CHEST.


I AM MAINAKA. YOUR FATHER HAD ONCE SAVED MY LIFE. YOU MUST WAIT FOR A WHILE!
THANK YOU! BUT I CANNOT WAIT!


AS HANUMAN WENT FLYING, SURASA, THE SEA MONSTER CAME OUT WITH HER JAWS WIDE OPEN.

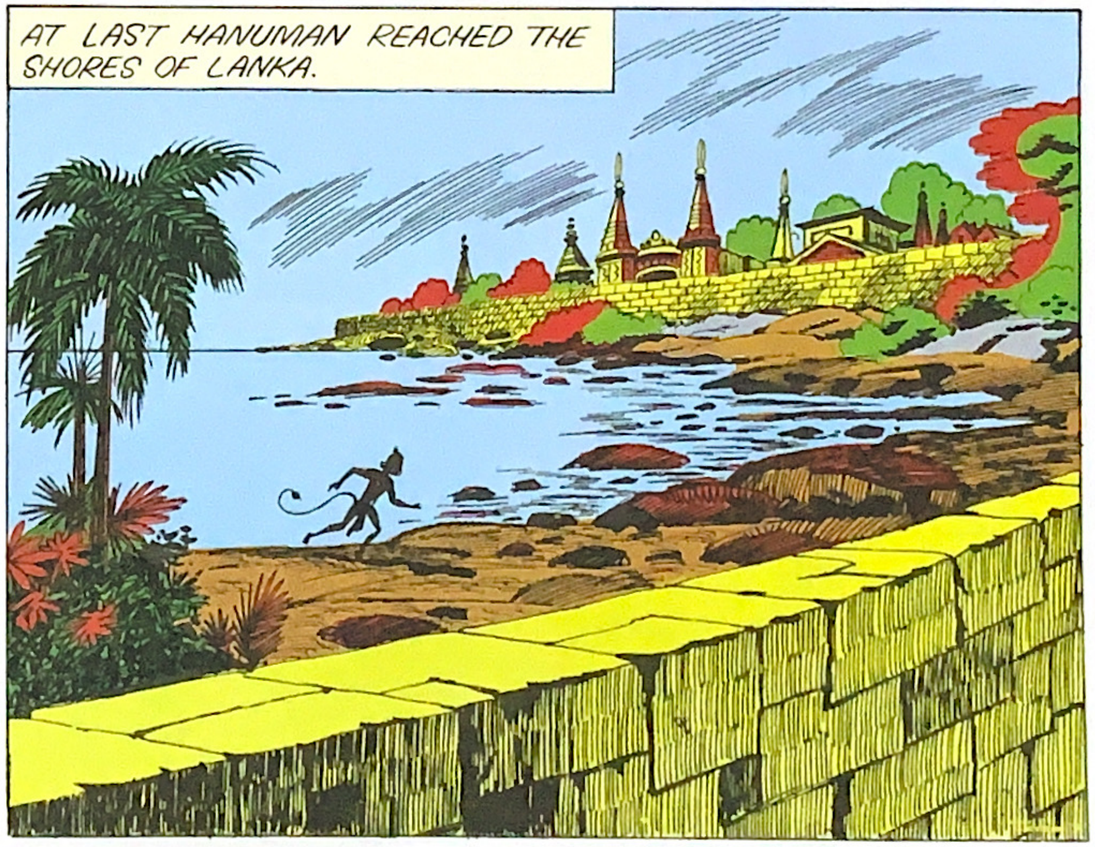
YOU MUST ENTER MY MOUTH!

HANUMAN STARTED BLOWING HIMSELF UP BIGGER AND BIGGER...

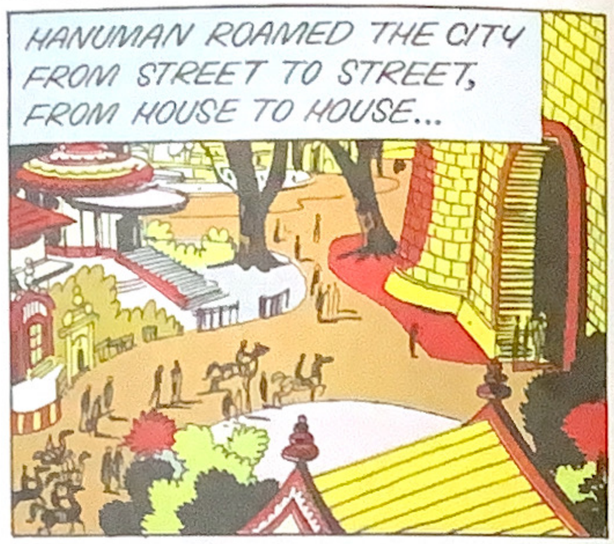
...AND THE MONSTER OPENED HER JAWS WIDER AND WIDER.

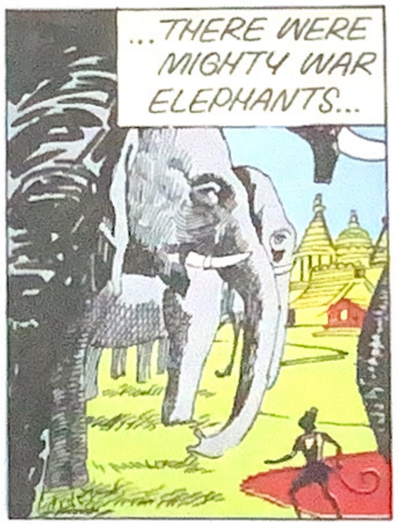
SUDDENLY HANUMAN BECAME VERY SMALL AND BEFORE THE MONSTER COULD REALISE IT, HE ENTERED HER MOUTH AND CAME OUT AGAIN.

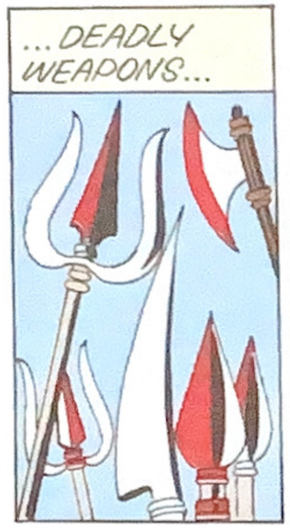
YOUR WISH IS FULFILLED. I DID ENTER YOUR MOUTH.
YOU ARE BRAVE. I WAS ONLY TESTING YOUR DETERMINATION.


AT LAST HANUMAN REACHED THE SHORES OF LANKA.

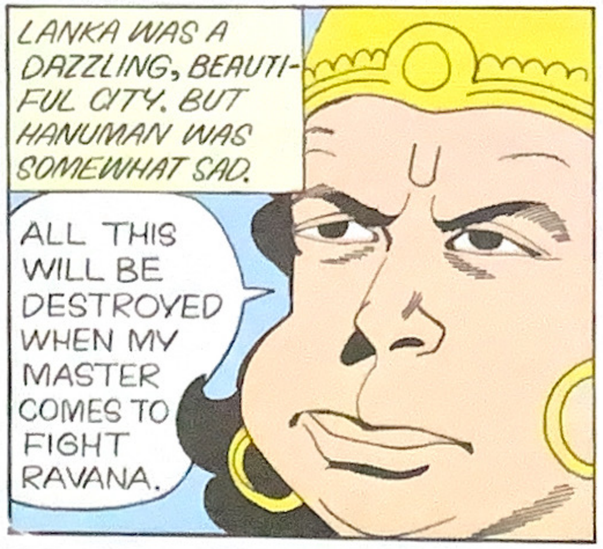
HOW SHALL I ENTER THE CITY? THERE ARE GUARDS ALL AROUND. LET ME BE-COME SMALL. NOBODY WILL NOTICE ME.

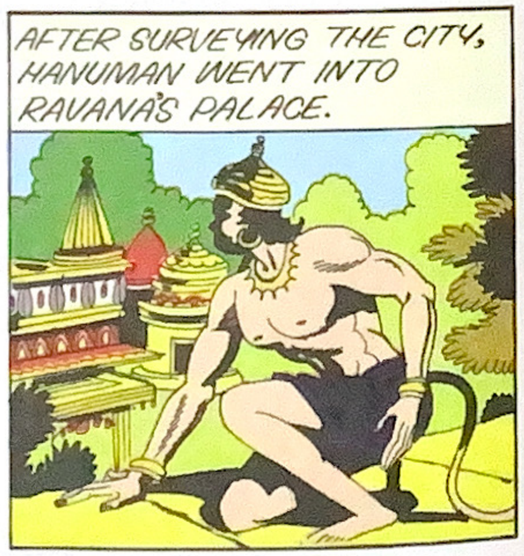

HANUMAN ROAMED THE CITY FROM STREET TO STREET, FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE...

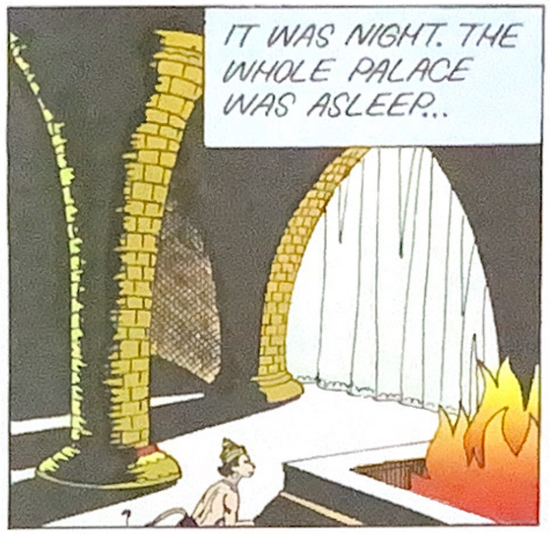

...THERE WERE MIGHTY WAR ELEPHANTS...


...DEADLY WEAPONS...

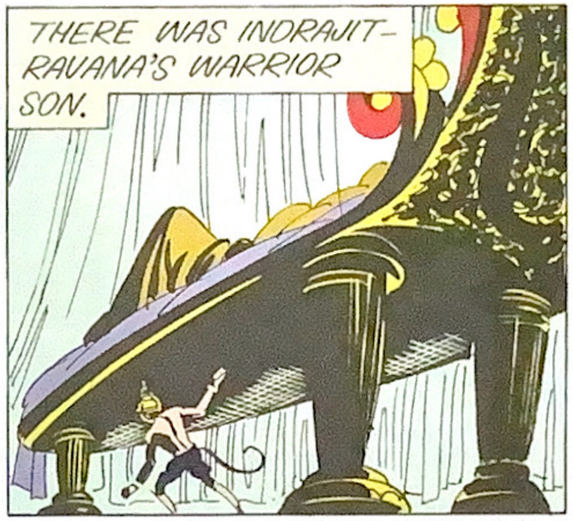
...AND GIANT WARRIORS GUARDING THE WALLS.

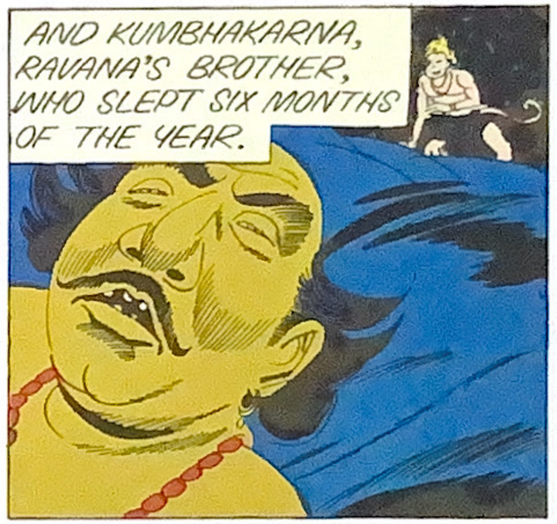

LANKA WAS A DAZZLING, BEAUTI-FUL CITY. BUT HANUMAN WAS SOMEWHAT SAD.
ALL THIS WILL BE DESTROYED WHEN MY MASTER COMES TO FIGHT RAVANA.

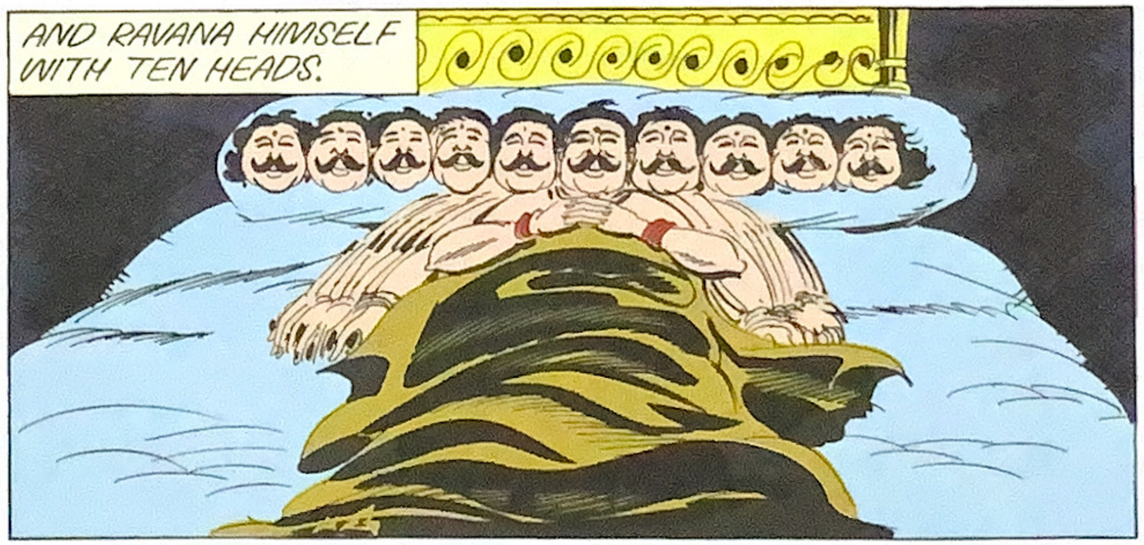

AFTER SURVEYING THE CITY, HANUMAN WENT INTO RAVANA'S PALACE.


IT WAS NIGHT. THE WHOLE PALACE WAS ASLEEP...

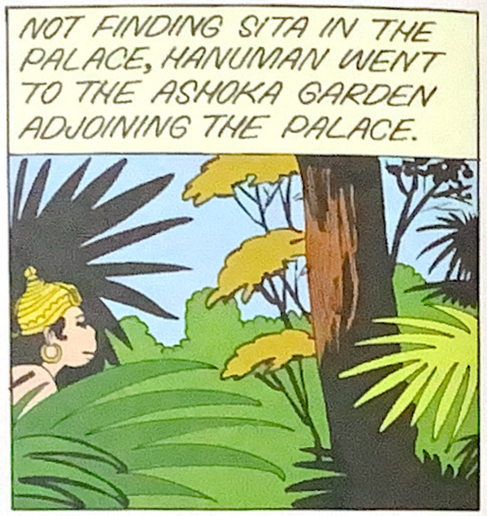
...THERE WERE THE BEAUTIFUL QUEENS...

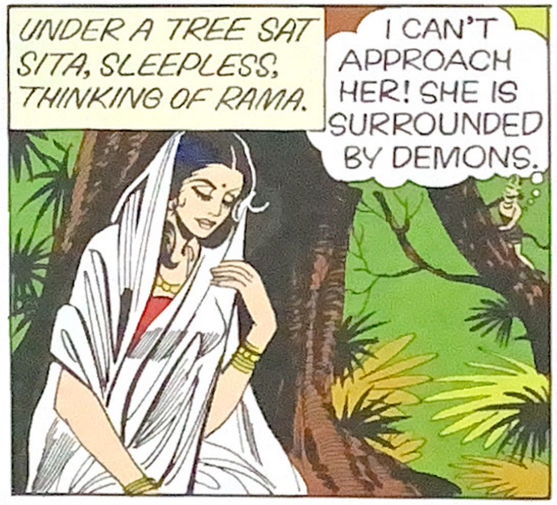

THERE WAS INDRAJIT-RAVANA'S WARRIOR SON.

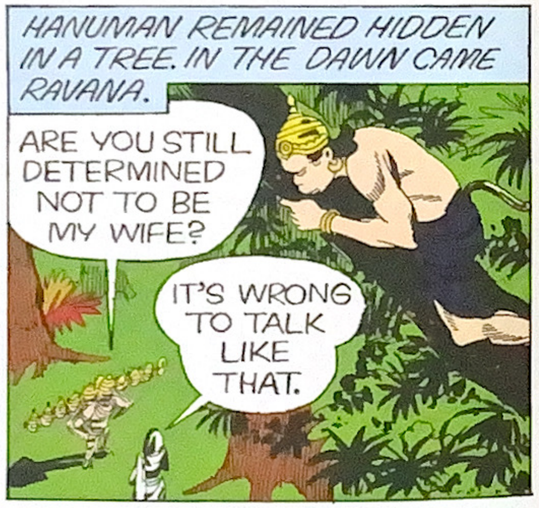

AND KUMBHAKARNA, RAVANA'S BROTHER, WHO SLEPT SIX MONTHS OF THE YEAR.

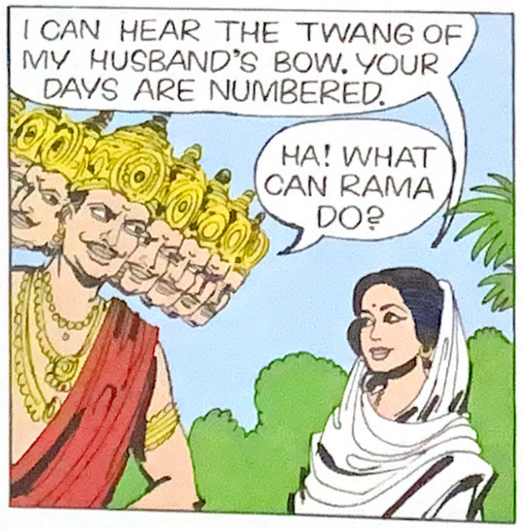

AND RAVANA HIMSELF WITH TEN HEADS.

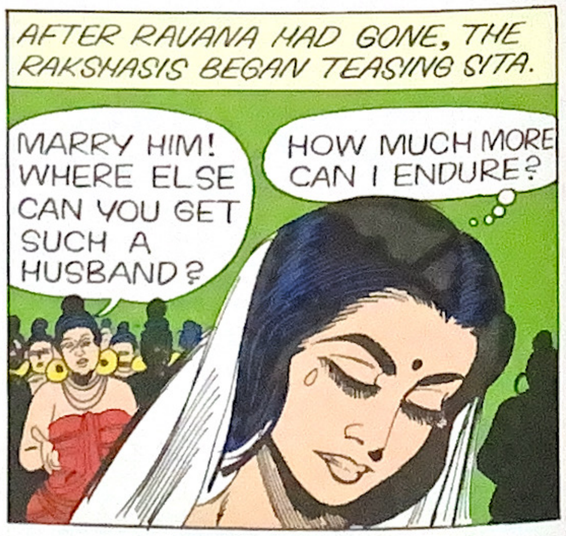
IN RAVANA'S CHAMBER, HANUMAN SAW A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN ASLEEP.
IS SHE SITA? NO, NEVER! HOW COULD I THINK SHE WOULD GIVE HERSELF TO THIS BRUTE?


NOT FINDING SITA IN THE PALACE, HANUMAN WENT TO THE ASHOKA GARDEN ADJOINING THE PALACE.

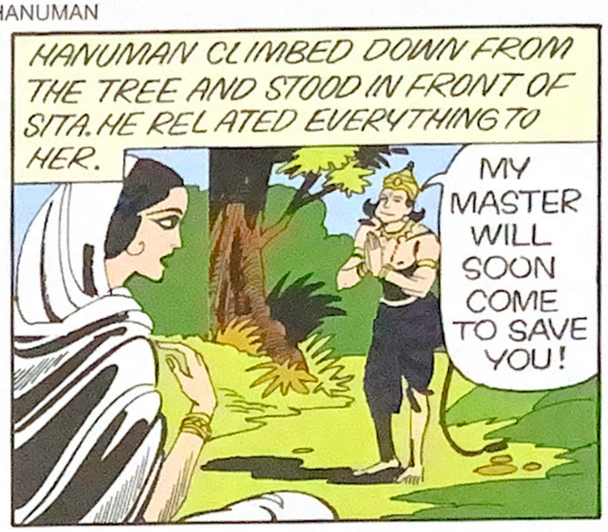

UNDER A TREE SAT SITA, SLEEPLESS, THINKING OF RAMA.
I CAN'T APPROACH HER! SHE IS SURROUNDED BY DEMONS.

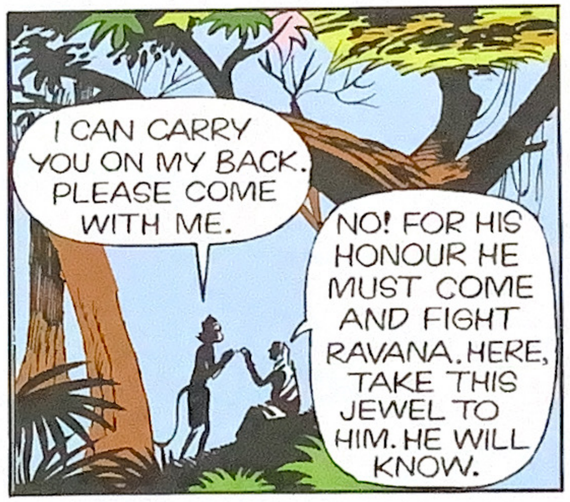

HANUMAN REMAINED HIDDEN IN A TREE. IN THE DAWN CAME RAVANA.
ARE YOU STILL DETERMINED NOT TO BE MY WIFE?
IT'S WRONG TO TALK LIKE THAT.


I CAN HEAR THE TWANG OF MY HUSBAND'S BOW. YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED.
HA! WHAT CAN RAMA DO?

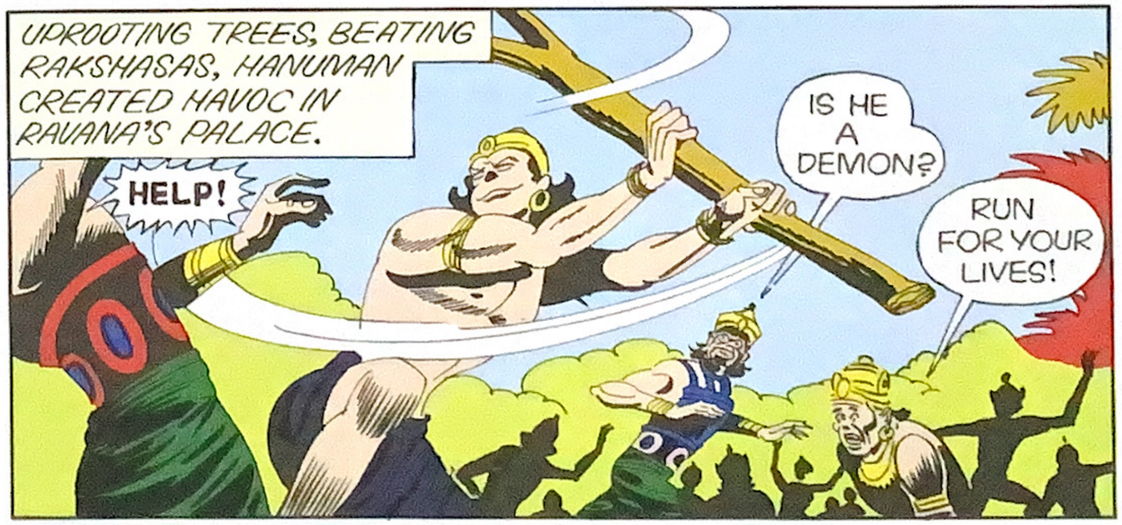

AFTER RAVANA HAD GONE, THE RAKSHASIS BEGAN TEASING SITA.
MARRY HIM! WHERE ELSE CAN YOU GET SUCH A HUSBAND?
HOW MUCH MORE CAN I ENDURE?

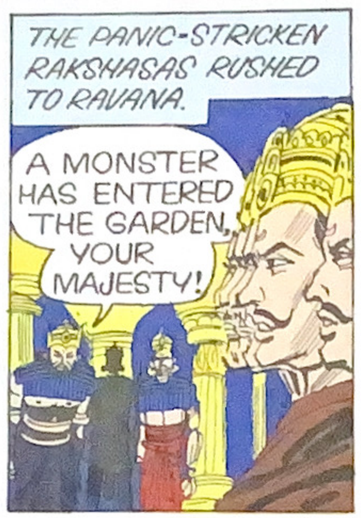
WHEN SITA WAS LEFT ALONE FOR SOME TIME, HANUMAN TOOK OUT THE SIGNET RING RAMA HAD GIVEN HIM AND DROPPED IT ON HER LAP.
WHAT IS THIS? MY HUSBAND'S RING?


HANUMAN CLIMBED DOWN FROM THE TREE AND STOOD IN FRONT OF SITA. HE RELATED EVERYTHING TO HER.
MY MASTER WILL SOON COME TO SAVE YOU!


I CAN CARRY YOU ON MY BACK. PLEASE COME WITH ME.
NO! FOR HIS HONOUR HE MUST COME AND FIGHT RAVANA. HERE, TAKE THIS JEWEL TO HIM. HE WILL KNOW.

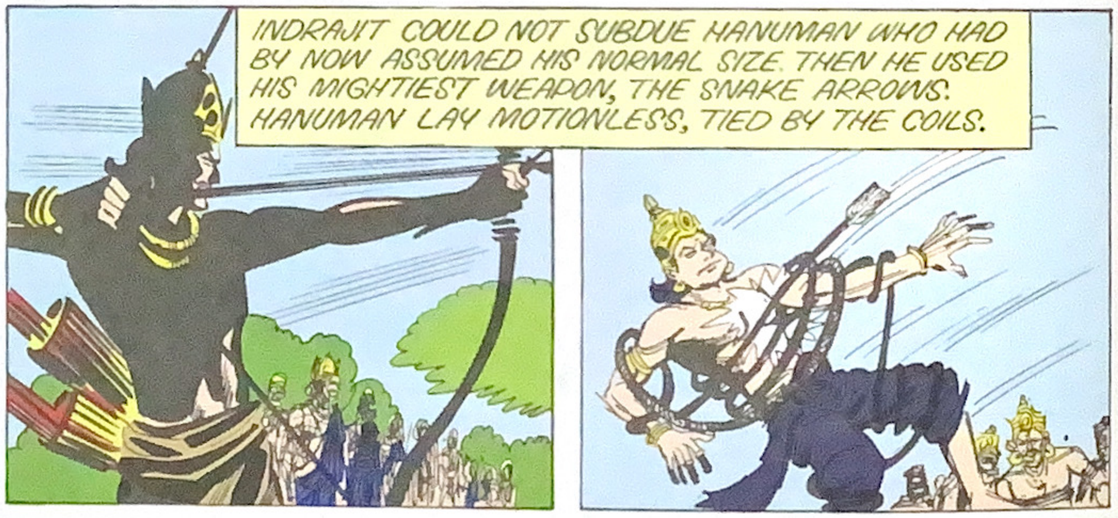
HANUMAN DECIDED TO TEACH RAVANA A LESSON.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
THAT GOES FOR YOU!

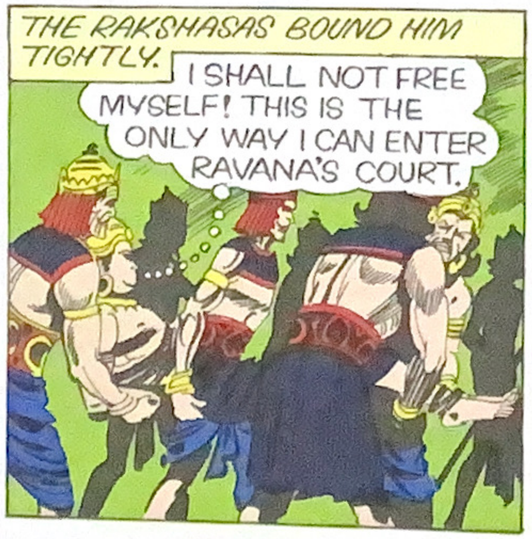

UPROOTING TREES, BEATING RAKSHASAS, HANUMAN CREATED HAVOC IN RAVANA'S PALACE.
HELP!
IS HE A DEMON?
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!

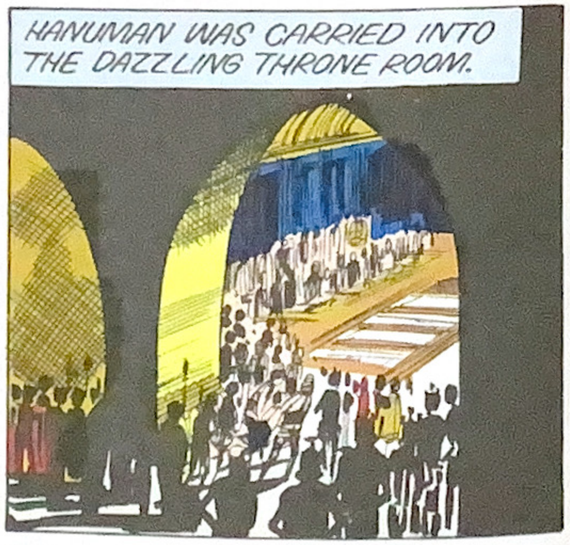

THE PANIC-STRICKEN RAKSHASAS RUSHED TO RAVANA.
A MONSTER HAS ENTERED THE GARDEN, YOUR MAJESTY!

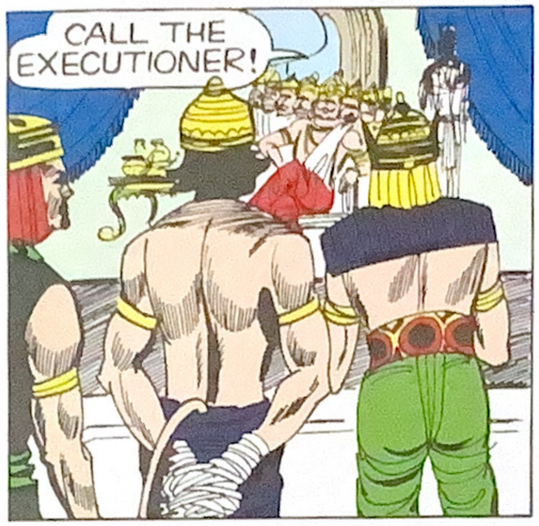
RAVANA SENT HIS SOLDIERS TO CAPTURE HANUMAN. BUT NO ONE COULD COME NEAR HIM.

THEN CAME INDRA-JIT, RAVANA'S WARRIOR SON.

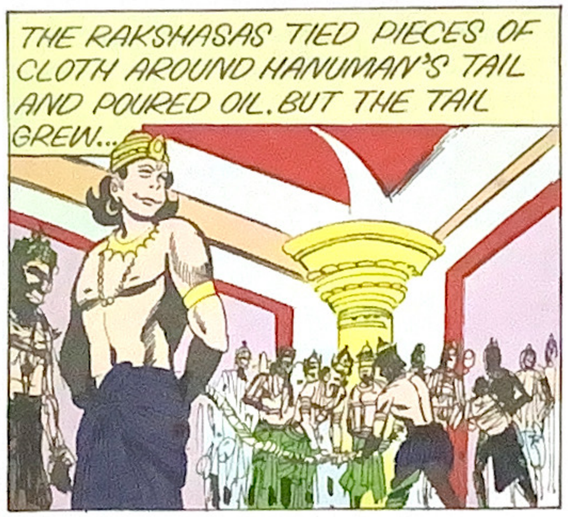

INDRAJIT COULD NOT SUBDUE HANUMAN WHO HAD BY NOW ASSUMED HIS NORMAL SIZE. THEN HE USED HIS MIGHTIEST WEAPON, THE SNAKE ARROWS. HANUMAN LAY MOTIONLESS, TIED BY THE COILS.


THE RAKSHASAS BOUND HIM TIGHTLY.
I SHALL NOT FREE MYSELF! THIS IS THE ONLY WAY I CAN ENTER RAVANA'S COURT.


HANUMAN WAS CARRIED INTO THE DAZZLING THRONE ROOM.

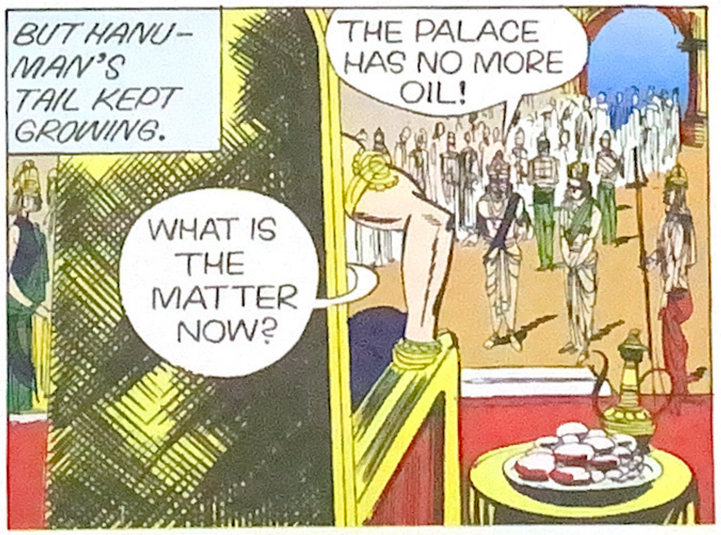

CALL THE EXECUTIONER!

VIBHEESHANA, RAVANA'S RIGHTEOUS BROTHER INTERVENED.
YOU CANNOT KILL A MESSENGER!


THE RAKSHASAS TIED PIECES OF CLOTH AROUND HANUMAN'S TAIL AND POURED OIL. BUT THE TAIL GREW...

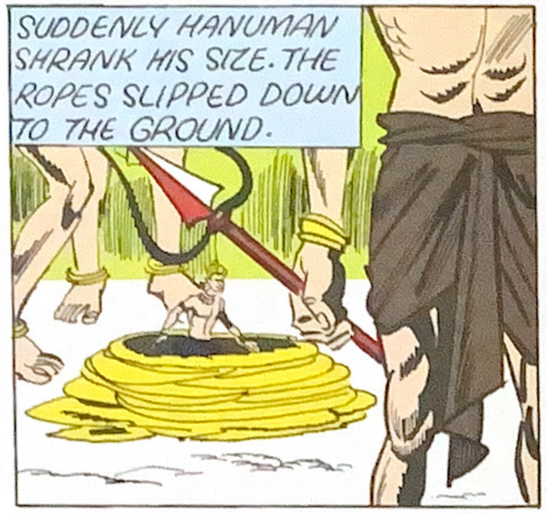
...LONGER
BRING MORE CLOTH!
MORE OIL!

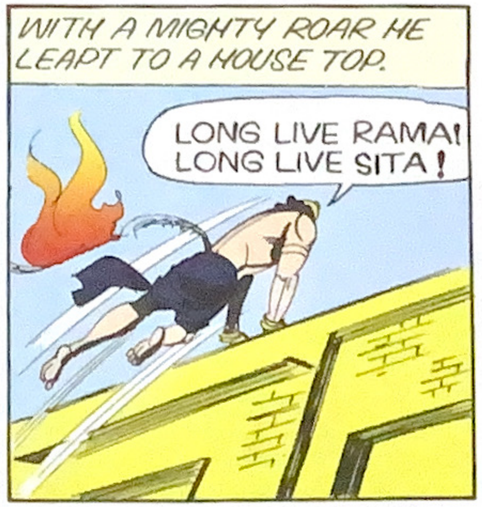
...AND STILL LONGER.
THERE IS NO MORE OIL.
TELL THE KING!

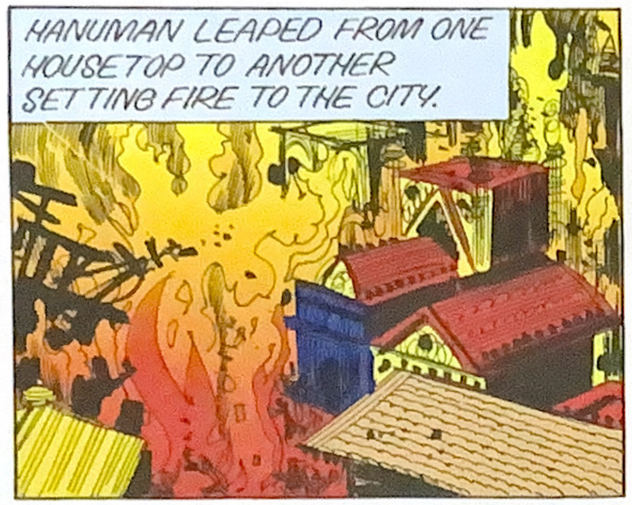

BUT HANU-MAN'S TAIL KEPT GROWING.
THE PALACE HAS NO MORE OIL!
WHAT IS THE MATTER NOW?

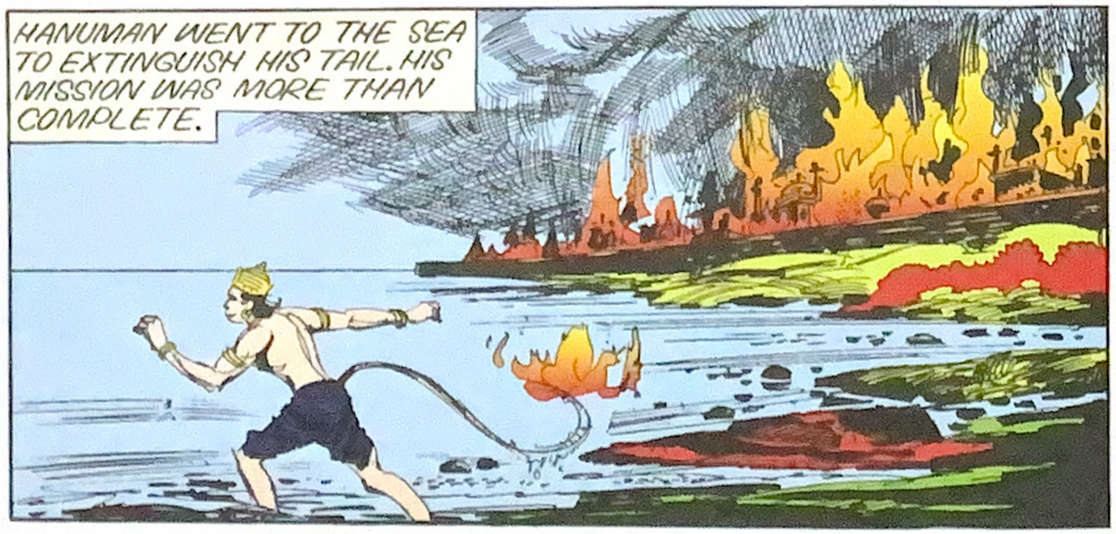
ALL RIGHT! LIGHT THE FLAME!

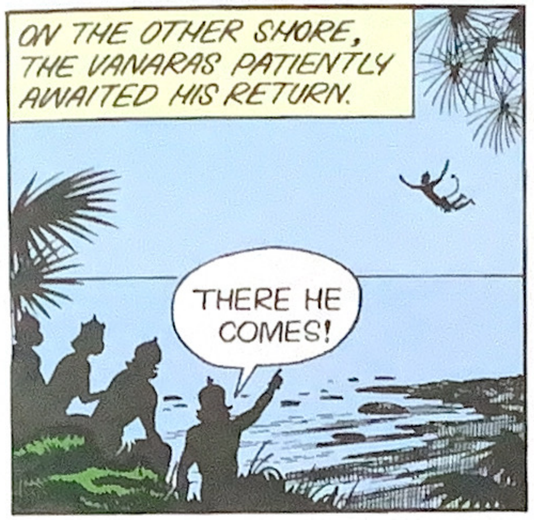
THE SOLDIERS TOOK HIM THROUGH THE STREETS.
FOOLS! THEY ARE SHOWING ME THE WHOLE PLAN OF THE CITY!

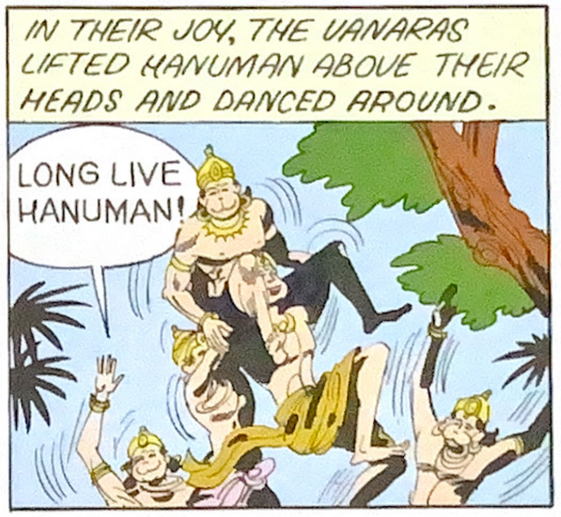

SUDDENLY HANUMAN SHRANK HIS SIZE. THE ROPES SLIPPED DOWN TO THE GROUND.

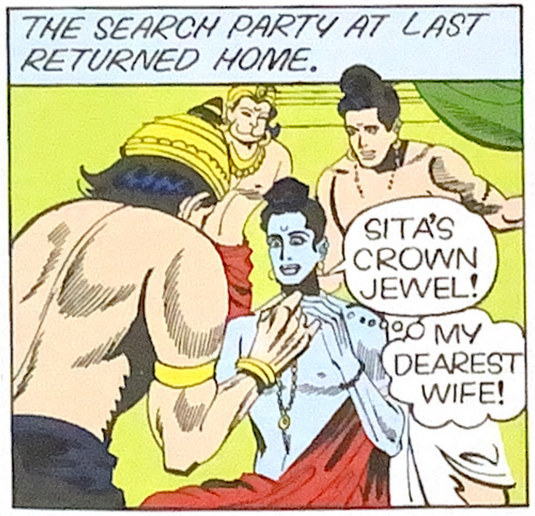

WITH A MIGHTY ROAR HE LEAPT TO A HOUSE TOP.
LONG LIVE RAMA! LONG LIVE SITA!


HANUMAN LEAPED FROM ONE HOUSETOP TO ANOTHER SETTING FIRE TO THE CITY.

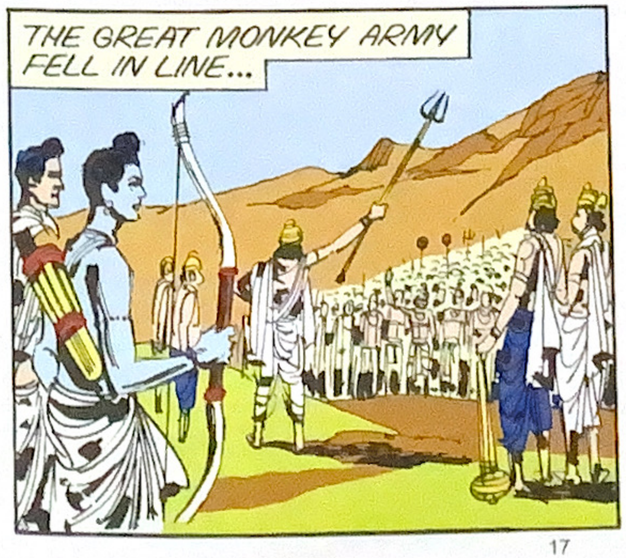

HANUMAN WENT TO THE SEA TO EXTINGUISH HIS TAIL. HIS MISSION WAS MORE THAN COMPLETE.


ON THE OTHER SHORE, THE VANARAS PATIENTLY AWAITED HIS RETURN.
THERE HE COMES!


IN THEIR JOY, THE VANARAS LIFTED HANUMAN ABOVE THEIR HEADS AND DANCED AROUND.
LONG LIVE HANUMAN!

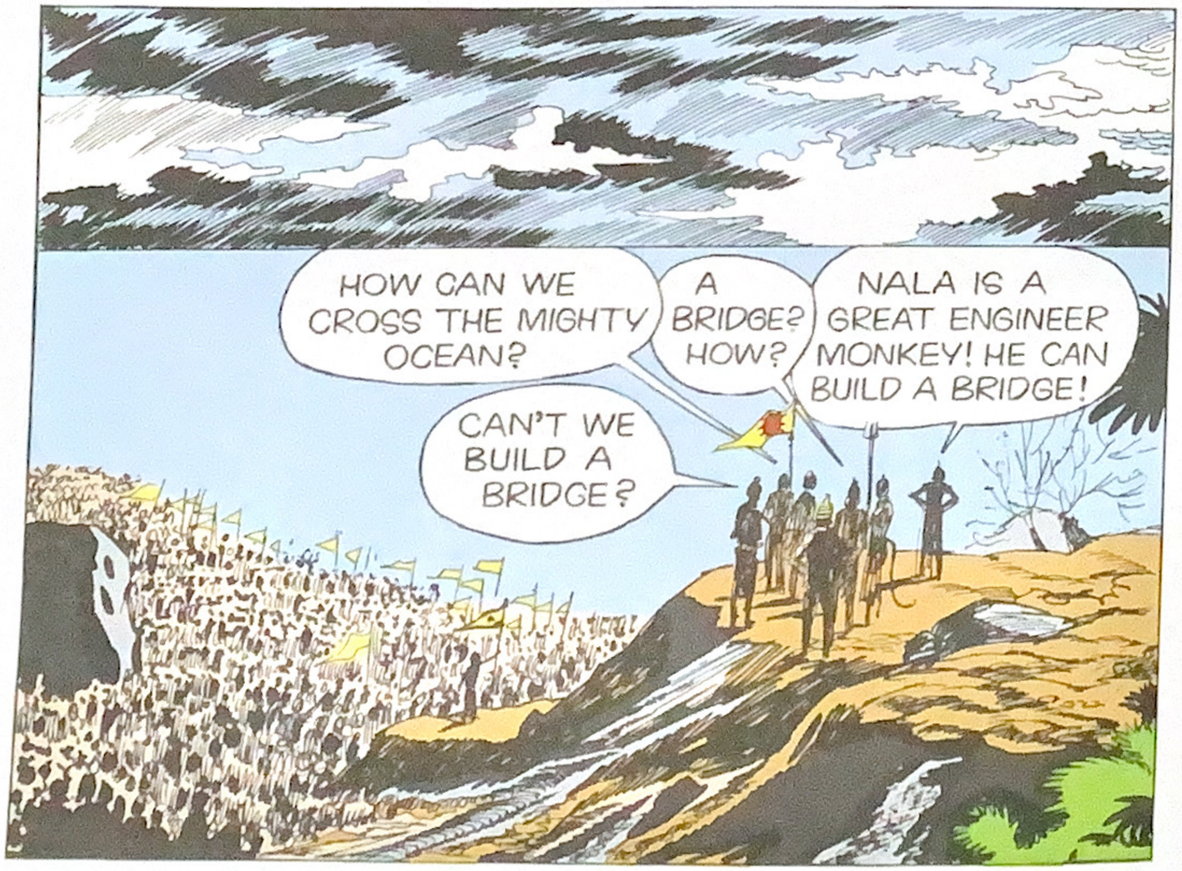

THE SEARCH PARTY AT LAST RETURNED HOME.
SITA'S CROWN JEWEL!
MY DEAREST WIFE!

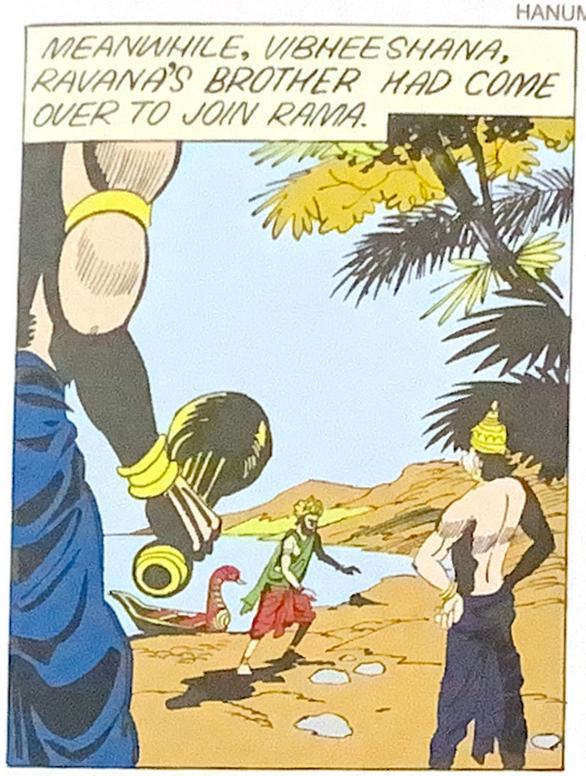
SUGREEVA ORDERED THE ARMY TO ASSEMBLE...


THE GREAT MONKEY ARMY FELL IN LINE...

...AND THE GIANT BEARS TOO!

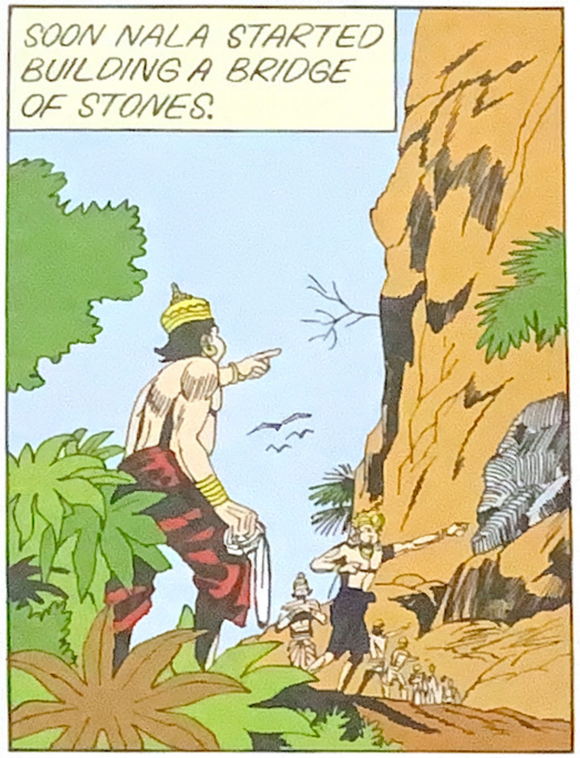
THE GREAT ARMY REACHED THE SEASHORE. ON THE OTHER SIDE LAY LANKA WHERE SITA WAS A PRISONER.

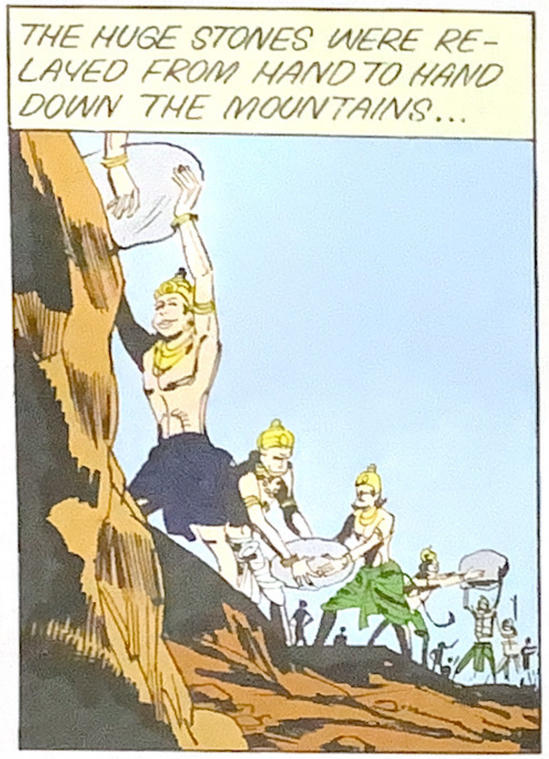

HOW CAN WE CROSS THE MIGHTY OCEAN?
A BRIDGE? HOW?
NALA IS A GREAT ENGINEER MONKEY! HE CAN BUILD A BRIDGE!
CAN'T WE BUILD A BRIDGE?

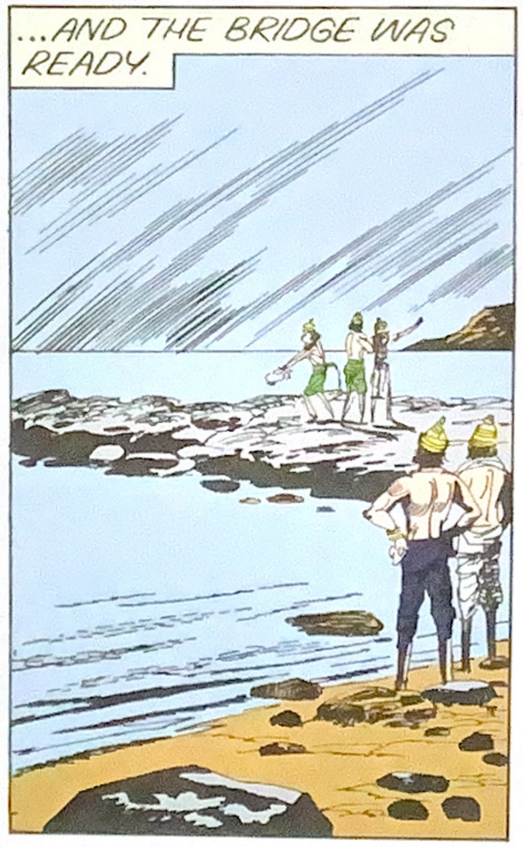

MEANWHILE, VIBHEESHANA, RAVANA'S BROTHER HAD COME OVER TO JOIN RAMA.

I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE WITH MY SINFUL BROTHER WILL YOU GIVE ME SHELTER?

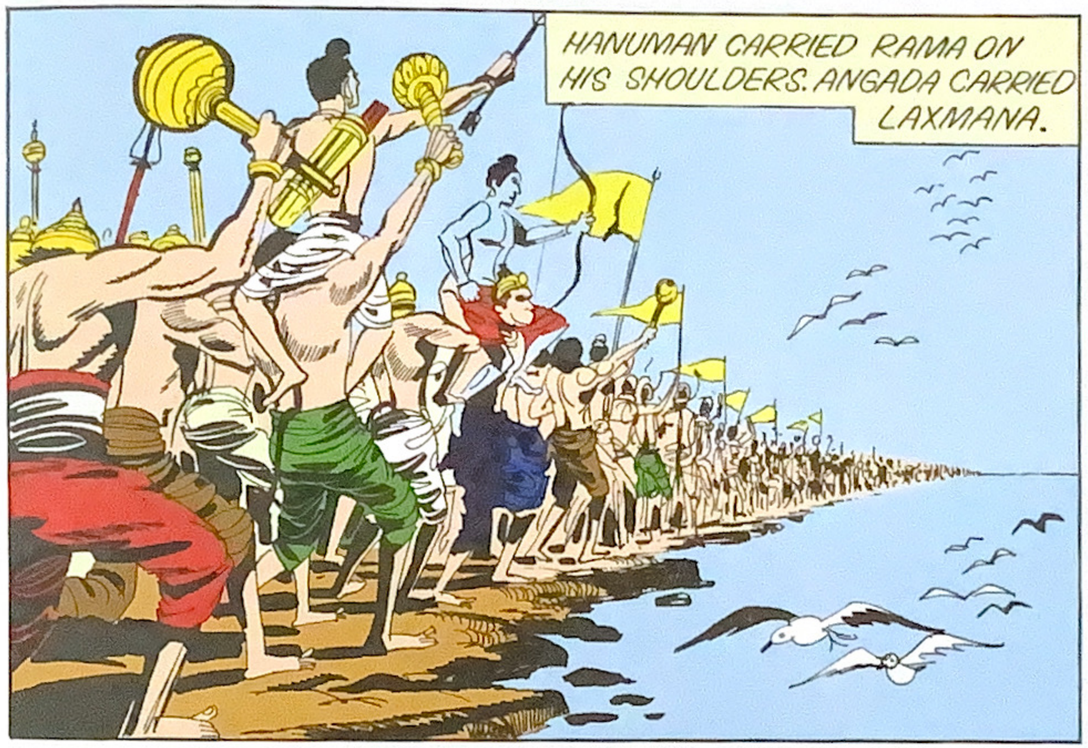
HOW CAN WE TRUST HIM?
THIS MAY BE A TRICK!
I THINK WE CAN BELIEVE HIM. HOWEVER, EVEN IF IT BE A TRICK, I CANNOT TURN AWAY SOMEONE WHO ASKS FOR SHELTER!

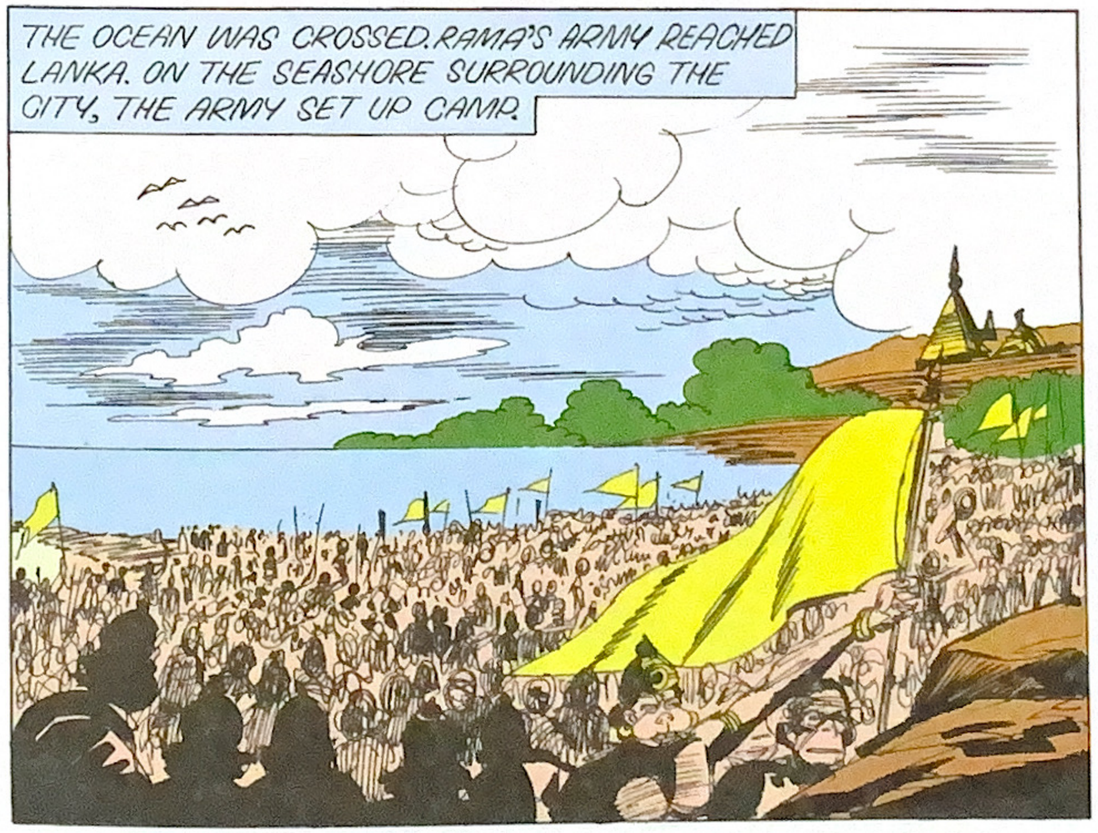

SOON NALA STARTED BUILDING A BRIDGE OF STONES.

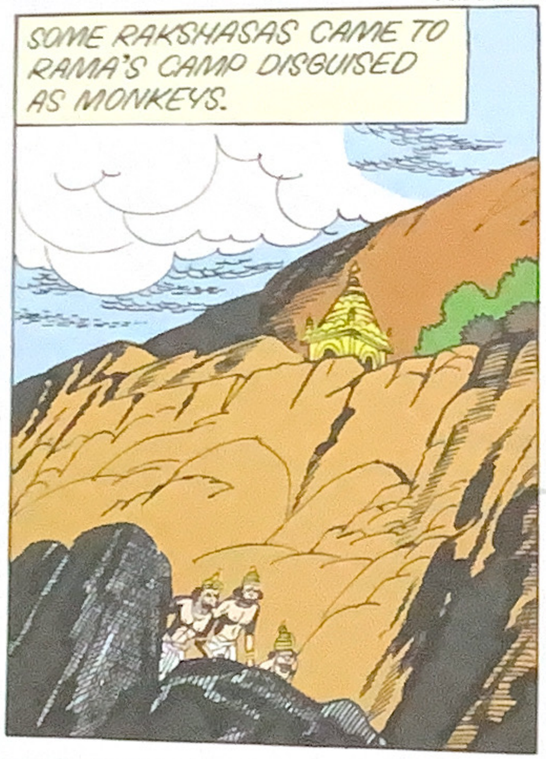

THE HUGE STONES WERE RE-LAYED FROM HAND TO HAND DOWN THE MOUNTAINS...


...AND THE BRIDGE WAS READY.

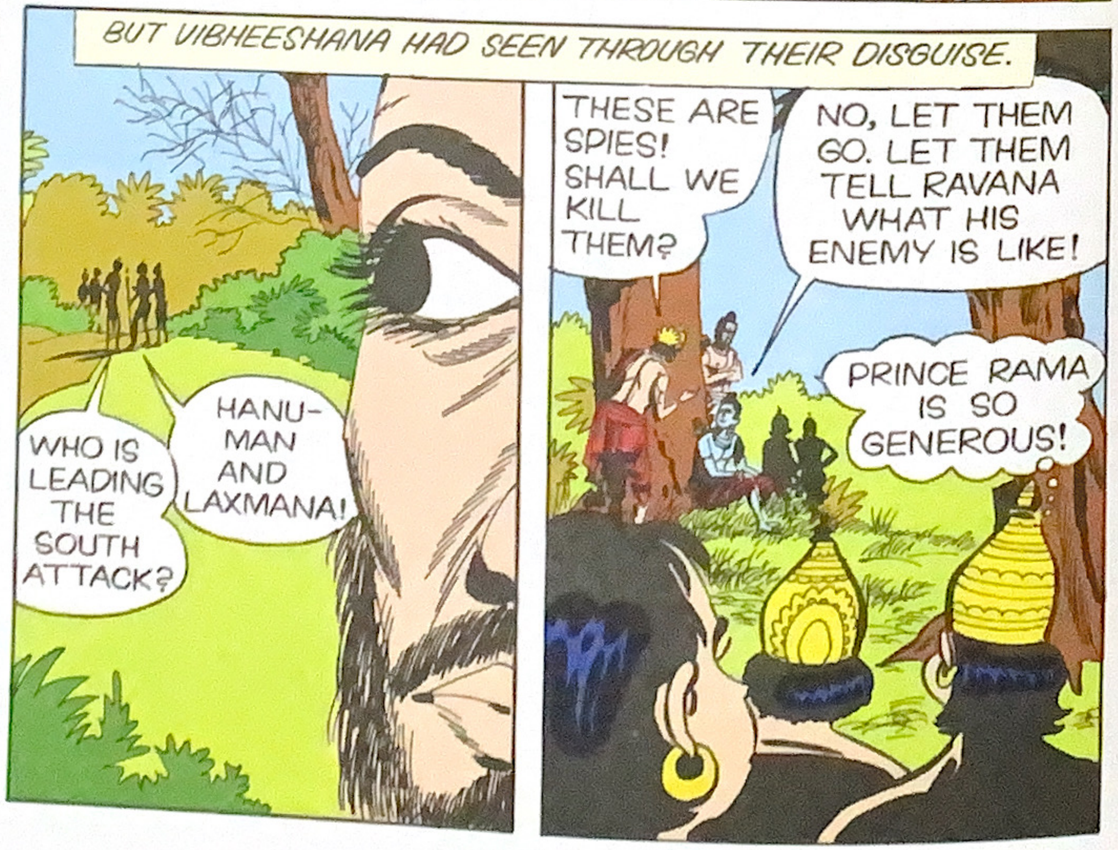
THE ARMY STARTED OUT ON ITS MARCH.
TO LANKA!
TO LANKA!

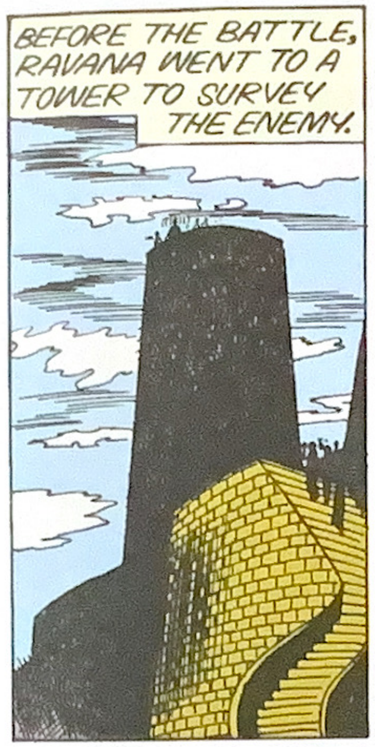

HANUMAN CARRIED RAMA ON HIS SHOULDERS. ANGADA CARRIED LAXMANA.


THE OCEAN WAS CROSSED. RAMA'S ARMY REACHED LANKA. ON THE SEASHORE SURROUNDING THE CITY, THE ARMY SET UP CAMP.

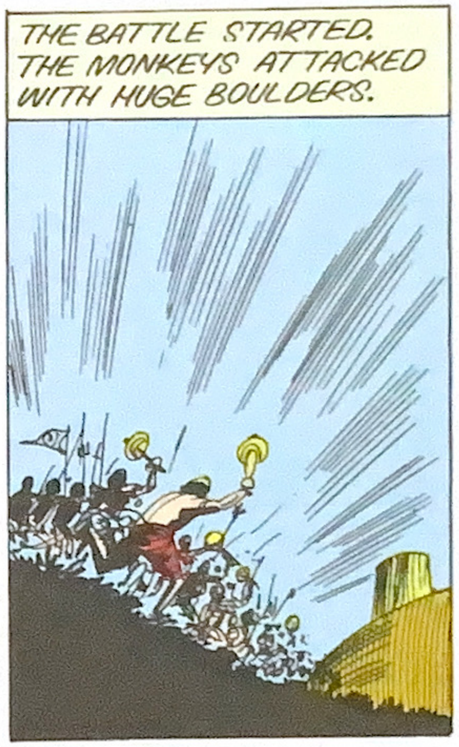

SOME RAKSHASAS CAME TO RAMA'S CAMP DISGUISED AS MONKEYS.

HOW MANY MEN DO WE HAVE IN THE NORTH?

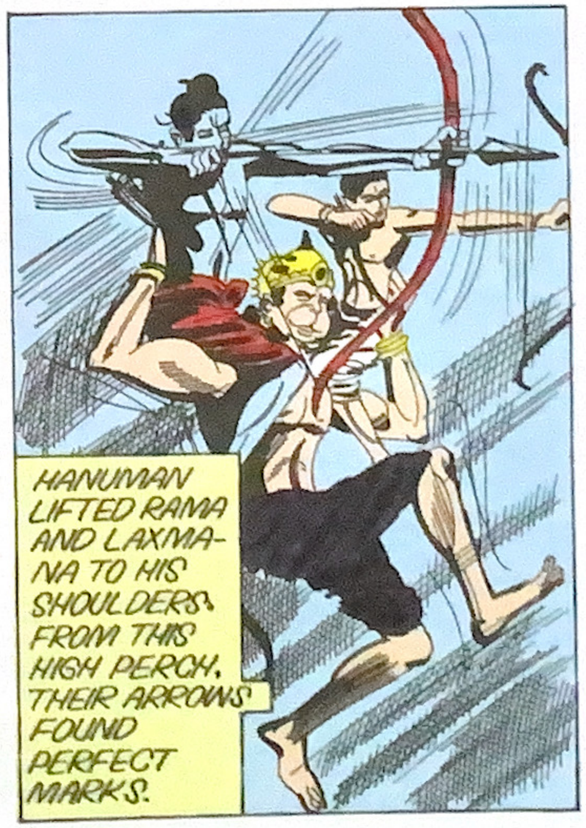

BUT VIBHEESHANA HAD SEEN THROUGH THEIR DISGUISE.
WHO IS LEADING THE SOUTH ATTACK?
HANU-MAN AND LAXMANA!
THESE ARE SPIES! SHALL WE KILL THEM?
NO, LET THEM GO. LET THEM TELL RAVANA WHAT HIS ENEMY IS LIKE!
PRINCE RAMA IS SO GENEROUS!

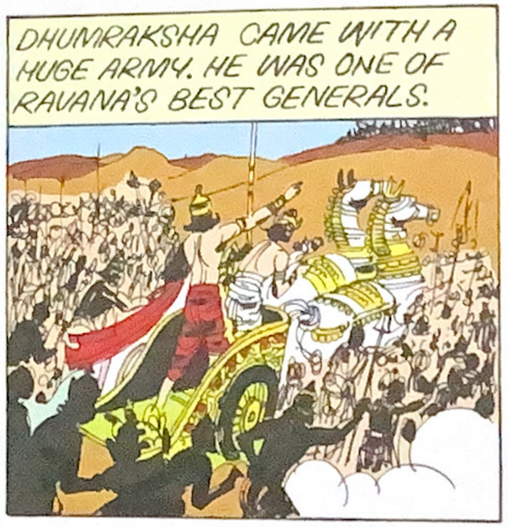

BEFORE THE BATTLE, RAVANA WENT TO A TOWER TO SURVEY THE ENEMY.

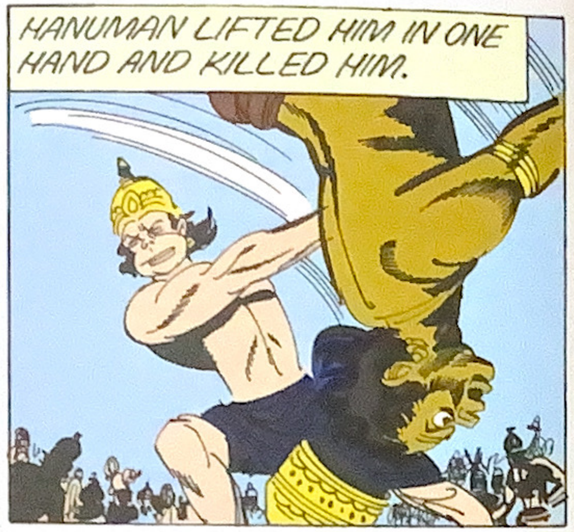
IN THE CENTRE THE CHARIOT BELONGS TO RAMA. INDRA GAVE IT TO HIM. TO HIS LEFT IS SUGREEVA!
HA! WE SHALL KILL THEM ALL!

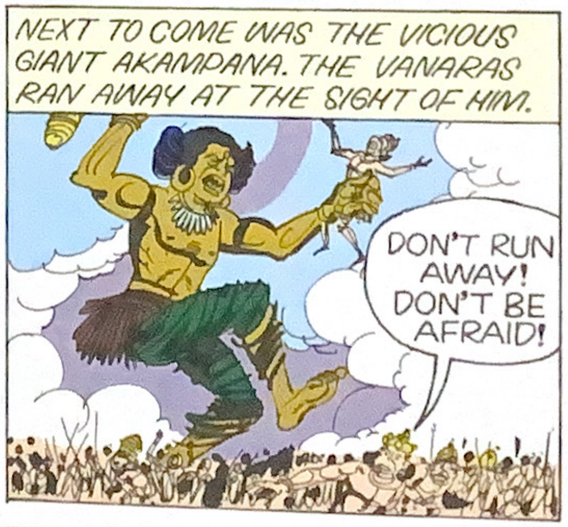

THE BATTLE STARTED. THE MONKEYS ATTACKED WITH HUGE BOULDERS.

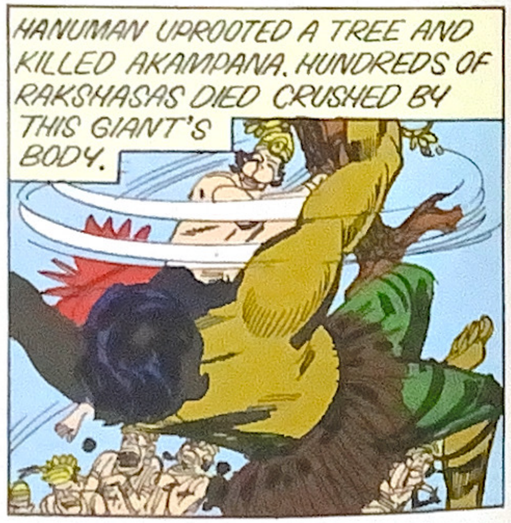
THE RAKSHASA GENERAL JAMBUMALI CAME TO FIGHT WITH HANUMAN. HANUMAN SMASHED HIS CHARIOT.

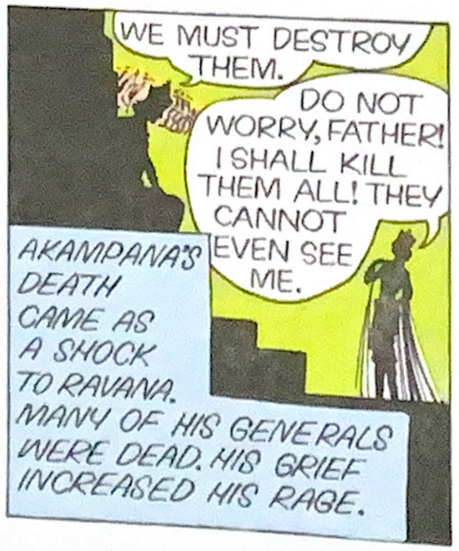

HANUMAN LIFTED RAMA AND LAXMA-NA TO HIS SHOULDERS. FROM THIS HIGH PERCH, THEIR ARROWS FOUND PERFECT MARKS.

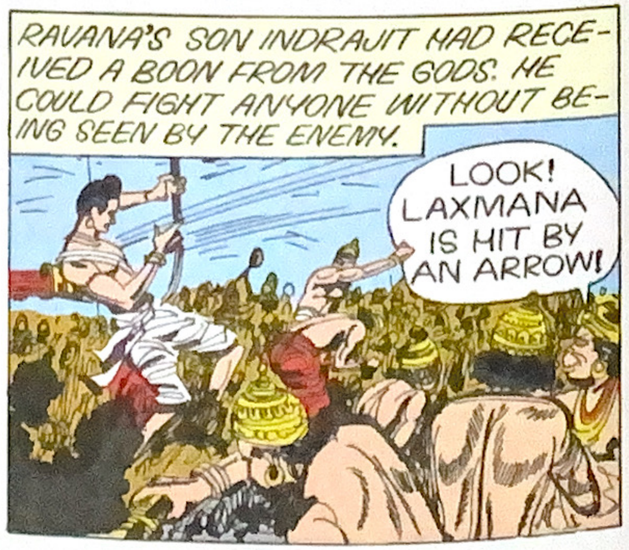

DHUMRAKSHA CAME WITH A HUGE ARMY. HE WAS ONE OF RAVANA'S BEST GENERALS.

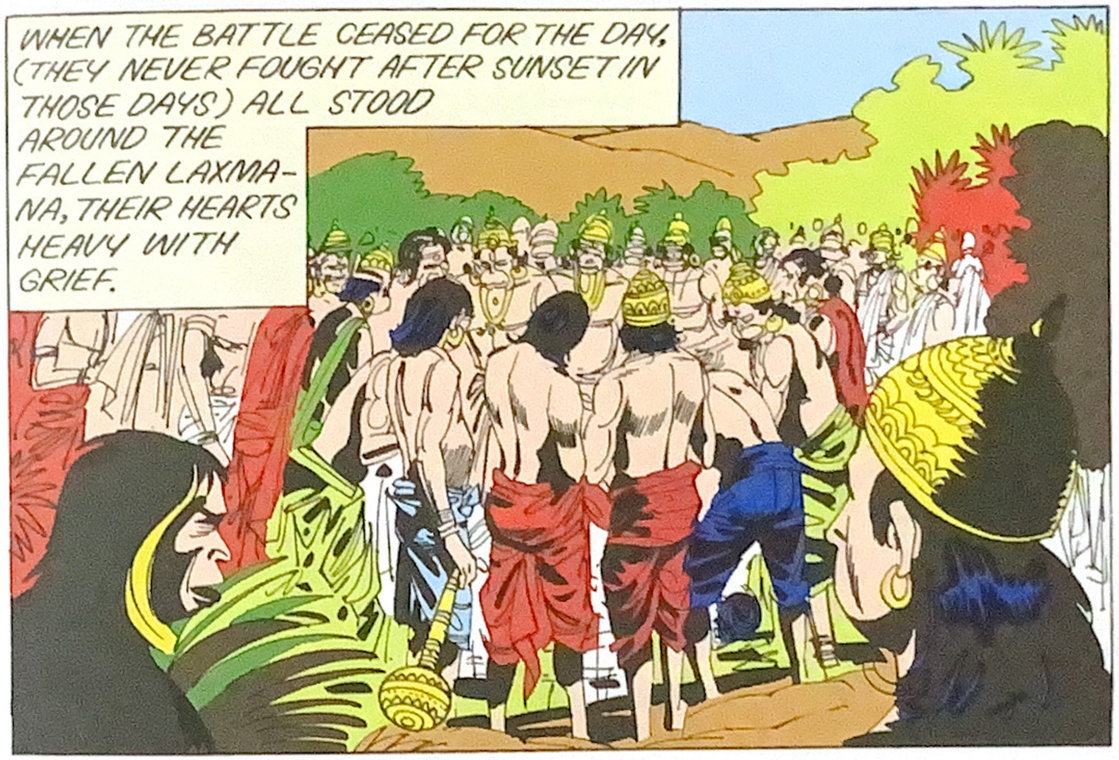

HANUMAN LIFTED HIM IN ONE HAND AND KILLED HIM.


NEXT TO COME WAS THE VICIOUS GIANT AKAMPANA. THE VANARAS RAN AWAY AT THE SIGHT OF HIM.
DON'T RUN AWAY! DON'T BE AFRAID!

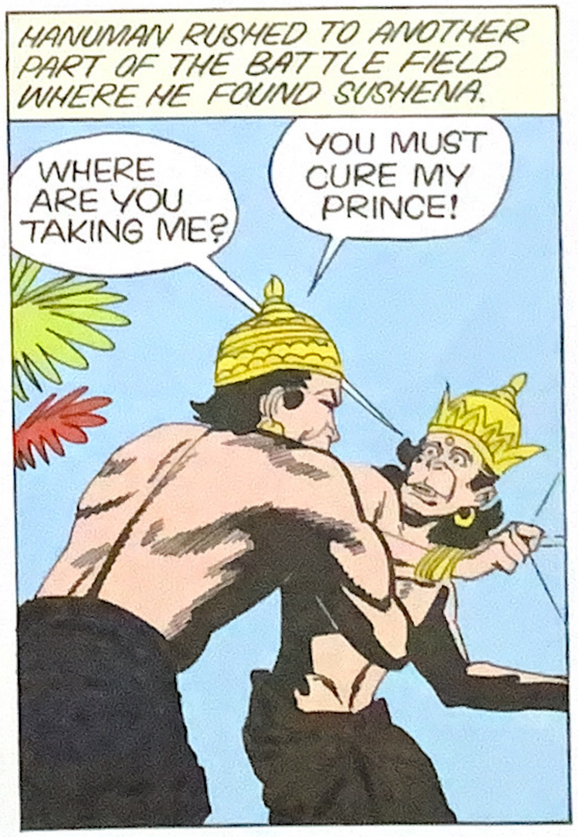

HANUMAN UPROOTED A TREE AND KILLED AKAMPANA. HUNDREDS OF RAKSHASAS DIED CRUSHED BY THIS GIANT'S BODY.


WE MUST DESTROY THEM.
DO NOT WORRY, FATHER! I SHALL KILL THEM ALL! THEY CANNOT EVEN SEE ME.
AKAMPANA'S DEATH CAME AS A SHOCK TO RAVANA. MANY OF HIS GENERALS WERE DEAD. HIS GRIEF INCREASED HIS RAGE.

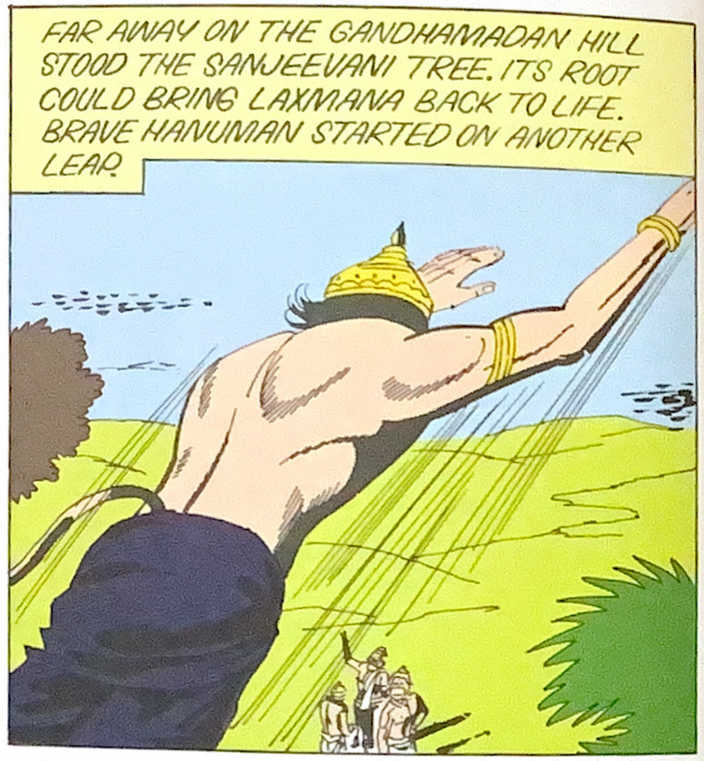

RAVANA'S SON INDRAJIT HAD RECEIVED A BOON FROM THE GODS. HE COULD FIGHT ANYONE WITHOUT BEING SEEN BY THE ENEMY.
LOOK! LAXMANA IS HIT BY AN ARROW!

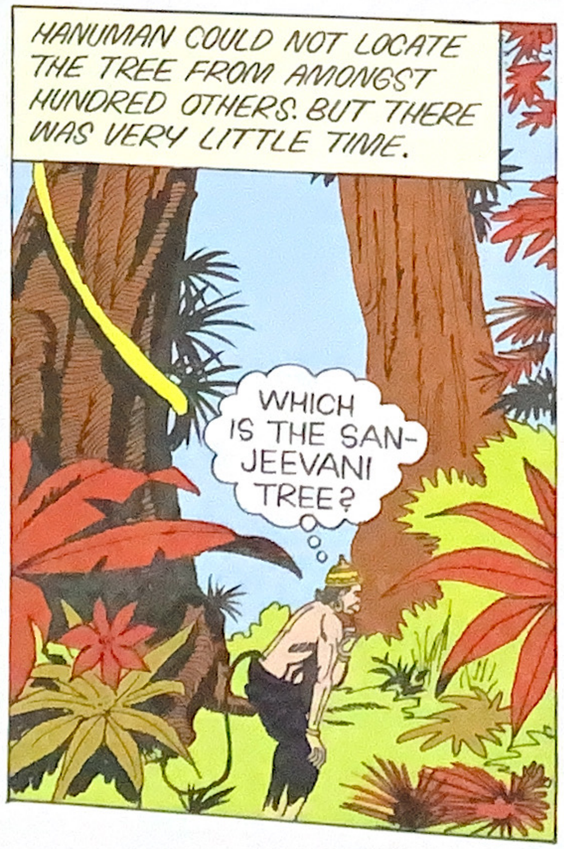

WHEN THE BATTLE CEASED FOR THE DAY, (THEY NEVER FOUGHT AFTER SUNSET IN THOSE DAYS) ALL STOOD AROUND THE FALLEN LAXMANA, THEIR HEARTS HEAVY WITH GRIEF.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?
BRING THE PHYSICIAN.

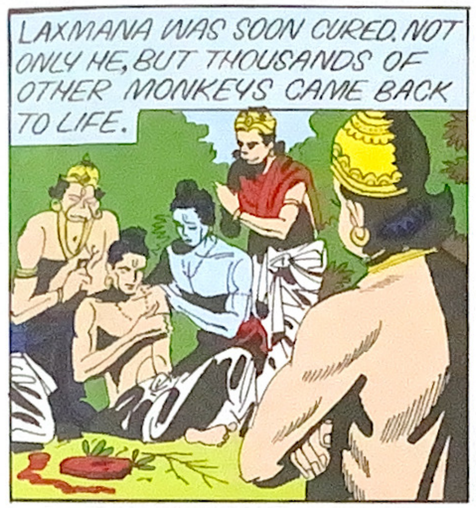

HANUMAN RUSHED TO ANOTHER PART OF THE BATTLE FIELD WHERE HE FOUND SUSHENA.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
YOU MUST CURE MY PRINCE!

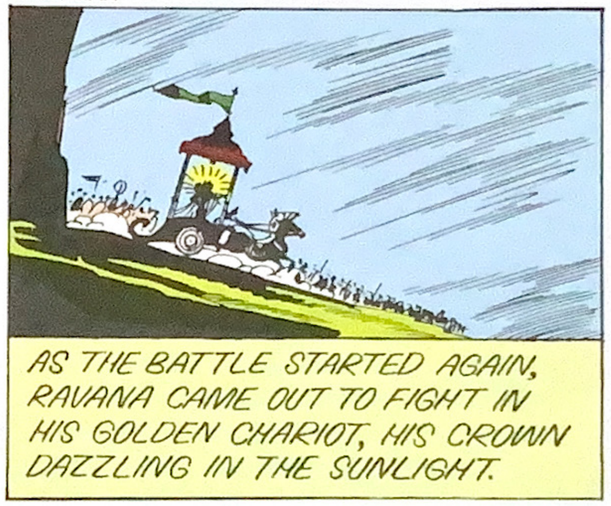
I NEED SANJEEVANI PLANT TO CURE LAXMANA!

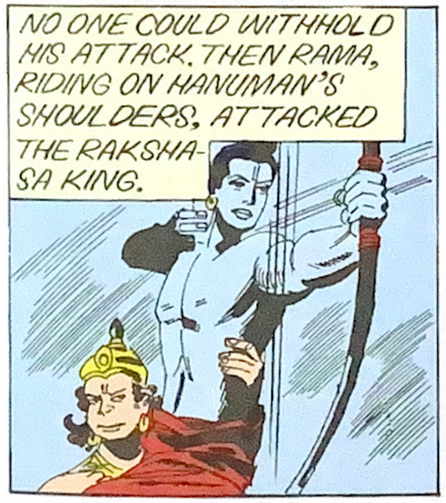

FAR AWAY ON THE GANDHAMADAN HILL STOOD THE SANJEEVANI TREE. ITS ROOT COULD BRING LAXMANA BACK TO LIFE. BRAVE HANUMAN STARTED ON ANOTHER LEAP.

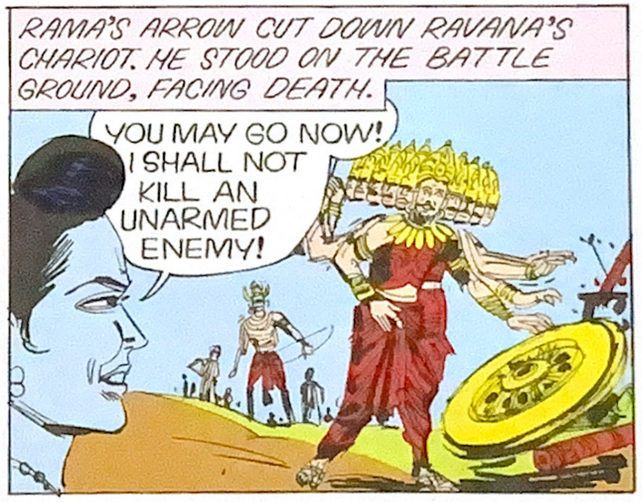

HANUMAN COULD NOT LOCATE THE TREE FROM AMONGST HUNDRED OTHERS. BUT THERE WAS VERY LITTLE TIME.
WHICH IS THE SANJEEVANI TREE?

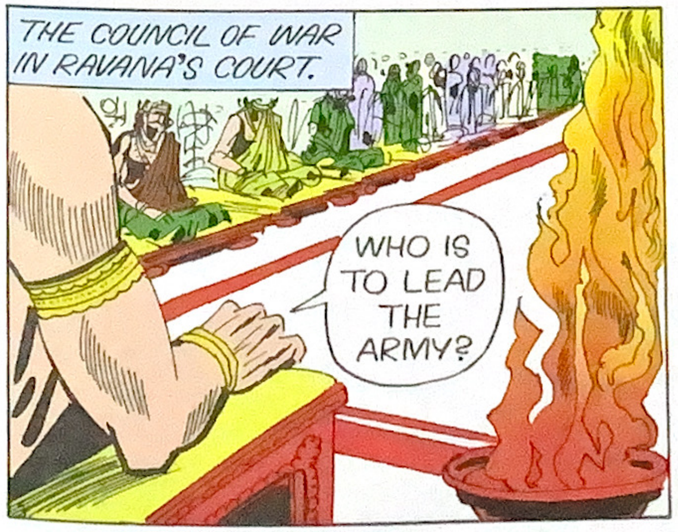
UNWILLING TO WASTE ANY MORE TIME, HANUMAN GREW IN SIZE AND LIFTED THE WHOLE MOUNTAIN IN HIS HANDS AND RETURNED TO LANKA.


LAXMANA WAS SOON CURED. NOT ONLY HE, BUT THOUSANDS OF OTHER MONKEYS CAME BACK TO LIFE.

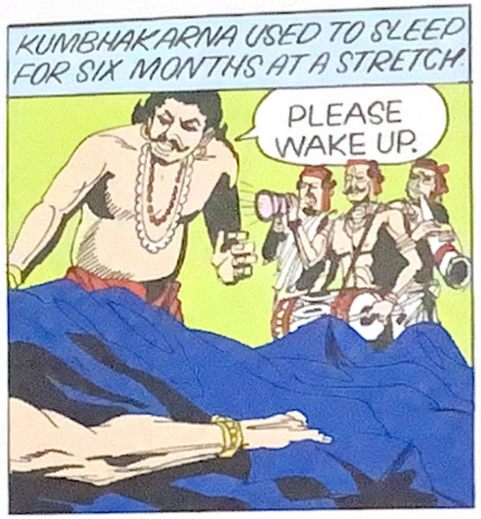

AS THE BATTLE STARTED AGAIN, RAVANA CAME OUT TO FIGHT IN HIS GOLDEN CHARIOT, HIS CROWN DAZZLING IN THE SUNLIGHT.

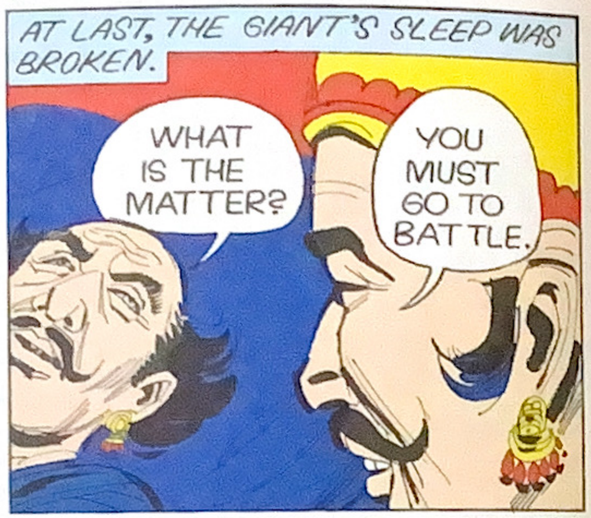

NO ONE COULD WITHHOLD HIS ATTACK. THEN RAMA, RIDING ON HANUMAN'S SHOULDERS, ATTACKED THE RAKSHASA KING.


RAMA'S ARROW CUT DOWN RAVANA'S CHARIOT. HE STOOD ON THE BATTLE GROUND, FACING DEATH.
YOU MAY GO NOW! I SHALL NOT KILL AN UNARMED ENEMY!

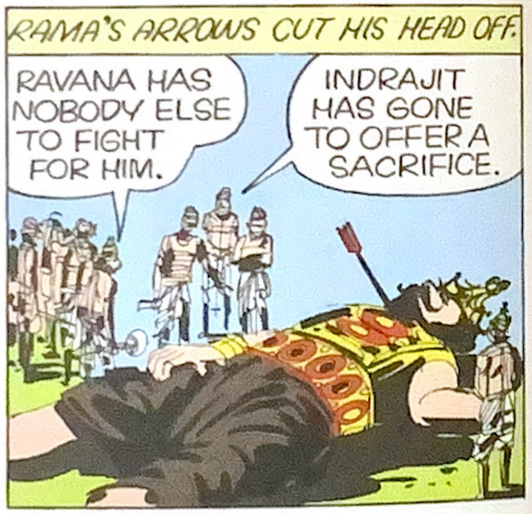

THE COUNCIL OF WAR IN RAVANA'S COURT.
WHO IS TO LEAD THE ARMY?

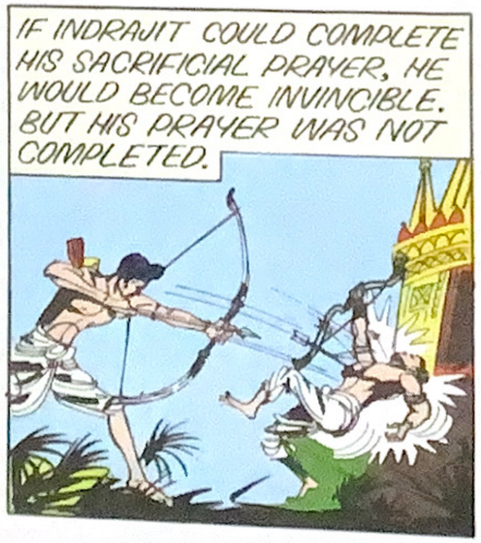
WAKE UP KUMBHAKARNA!

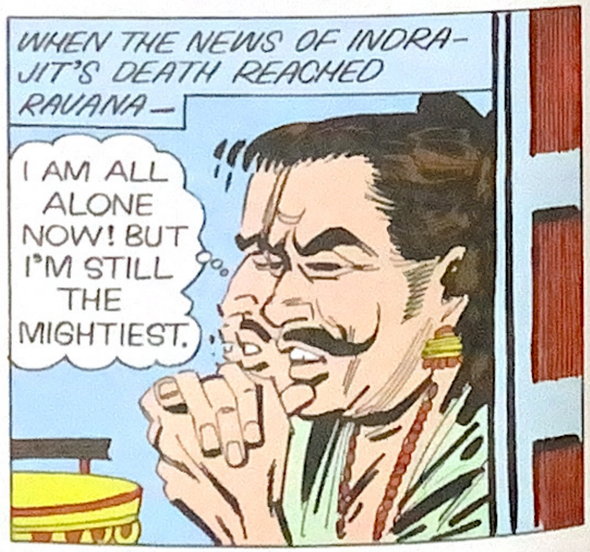

KUMBHAKARNA USED TO SLEEP FOR SIX MONTHS AT A STRETCH.
PLEASE WAKE UP.

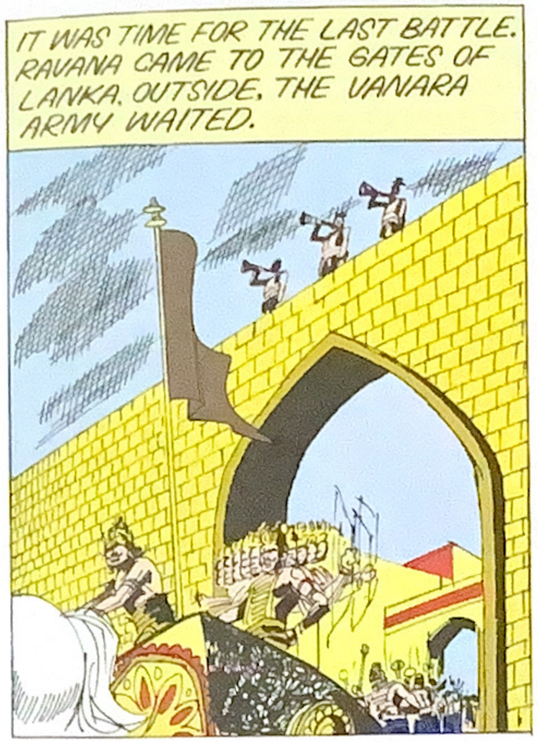

AT LAST, THE GIANT'S SLEEP WAS BROKEN.
WHAT IS THE MATTER?
YOU MUST GO TO BATTLE.

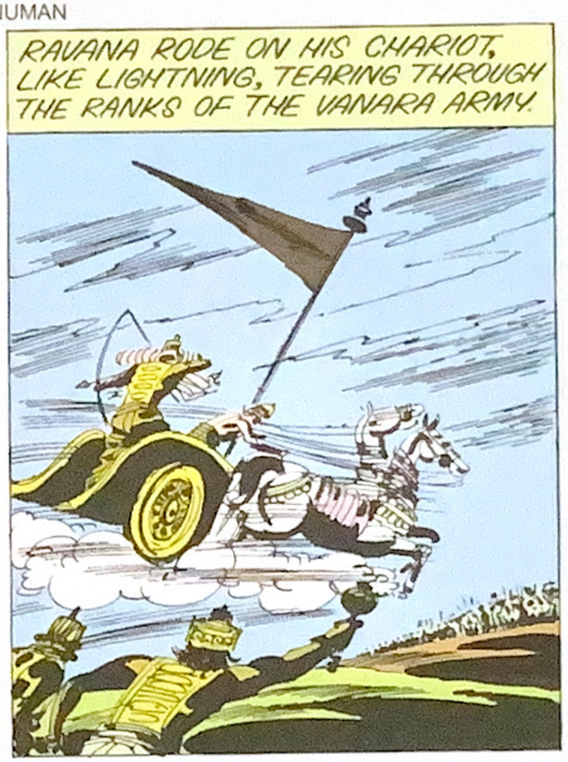
LIKE A TYPHOON, KUMBHAKARNA CAME TO THE BATTLE. THOUSANDS PERISHED UNDER HIS FEET.

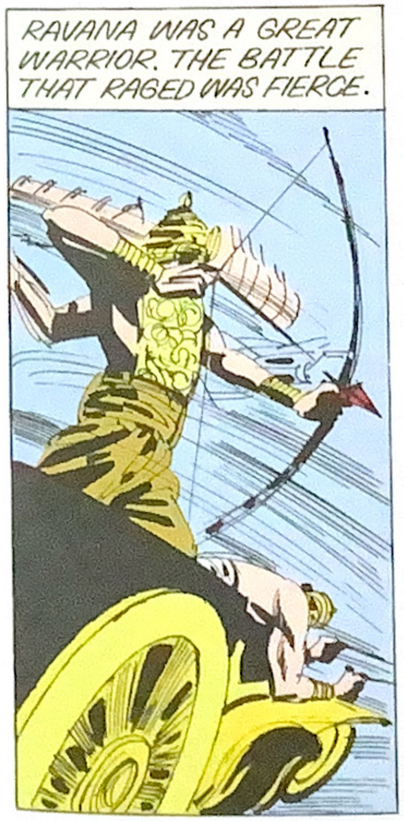

RAMA'S ARROWS CUT HIS HEAD OFF.
RAVANA HAS NOBODY ELSE TO FIGHT FOR HIM.
INDRAJIT HAS GONE TO OFFER A SACRIFICE.

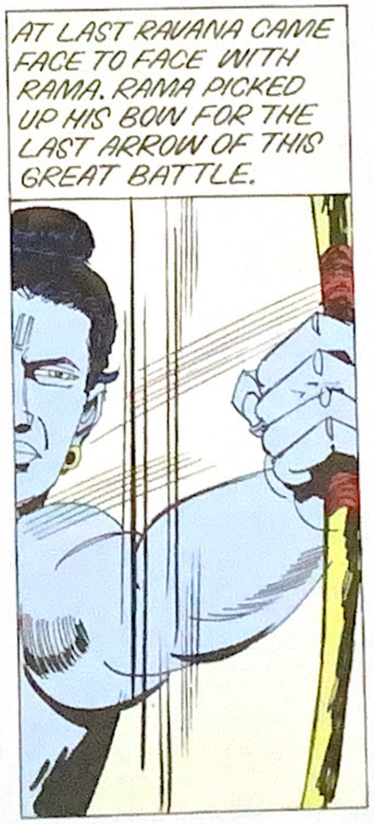

IF INDRAJIT COULD COMPLETE HIS SACRIFICIAL PRAYER, HE WOULD BECOME INVINCIBLE. BUT HIS PRAYER WAS NOT COMPLETED.


WHEN THE NEWS OF INDRA-JIT'S DEATH REACHED RAVANA—
I AM ALL ALONE NOW! BUT I'M STILL THE MIGHTIEST.


IT WAS TIME FOR THE LAST BATTLE. RAVANA CAME TO THE GATES OF LANKA. OUTSIDE, THE VANARA ARMY WAITED.

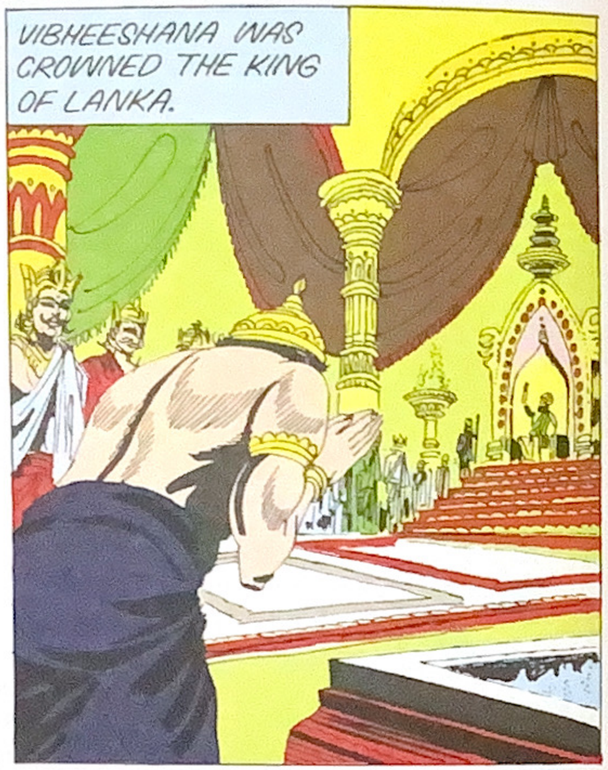

RAVANA RODE ON HIS CHARIOT, LIKE LIGHTNING, TEARING THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE VANARA ARMY.

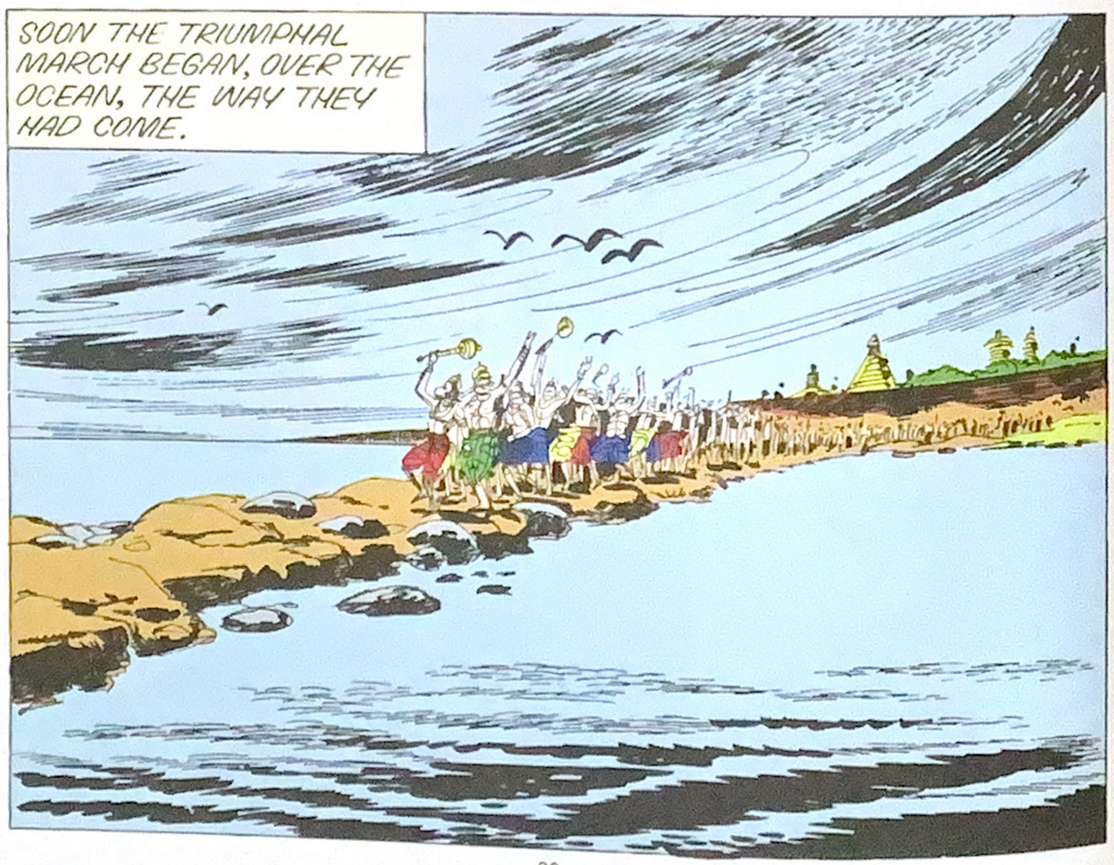

RAVANA WAS A GREAT WARRIOR. THE BATTLE THAT RAGED WAS FIERCE.


AT LAST RAVANA CAME FACE TO FACE WITH RAMA. RAMA PICKED UP HIS BOW FOR THE LAST ARROW OF THIS GREAT BATTLE.

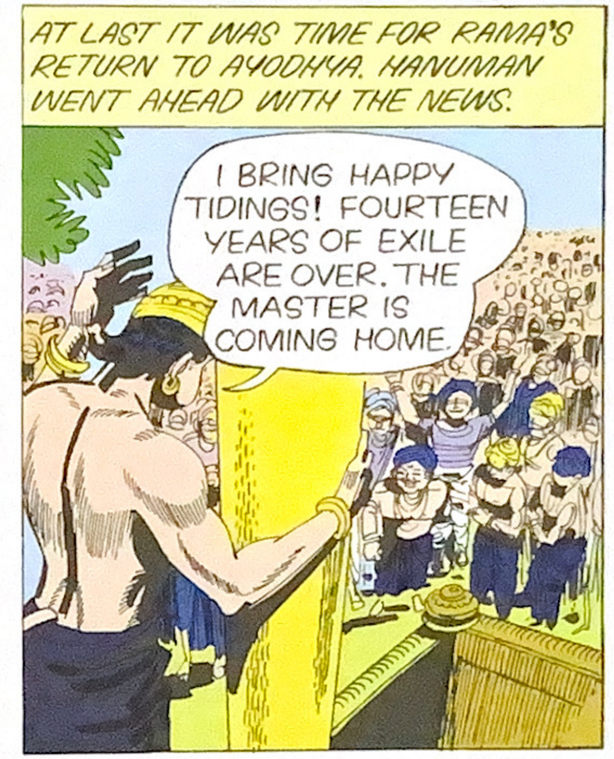
THE EVIL ENEMY HAD BEEN DESTROYED. VIRTUE HAD WON OVER GREED AND LUST.

THE KING HAD DIED. THE CITY OF LANKA WAS DARK AND MOURNFUL.

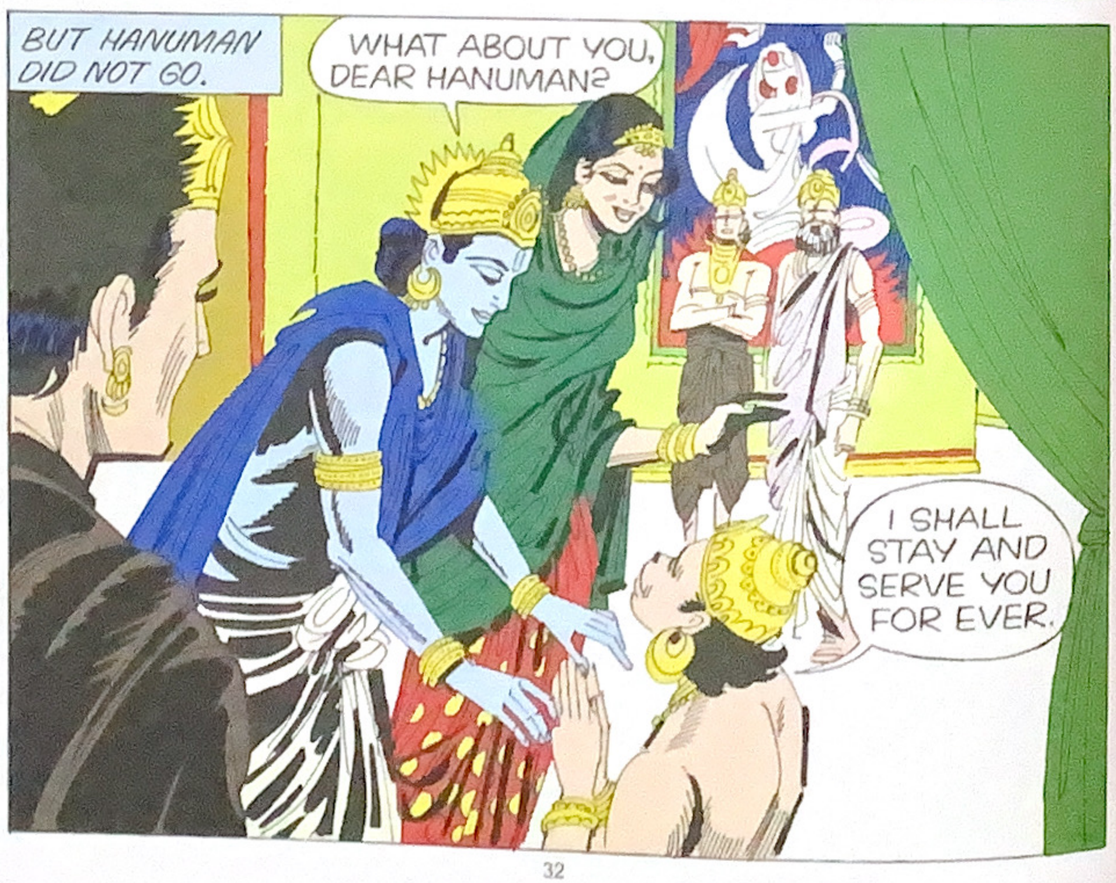

VIBHEESHANA WAS CROWNED THE KING OF LANKA.


SOON THE TRIUMPHAL MARCH BEGAN, OVER THE OCEAN, THE WAY THEY HAD COME.

COME MY BELOVED! YOU CAME IN THIS FLYING CHARIOT IN DISGRACE! YOU SHALL RETURN IN HONOUR!


AT LAST IT WAS TIME FOR RAMA'S RETURN TO AYODHYA. HANUMAN WENT AHEAD WITH THE NEWS.
I BRING HAPPY TIDINGS! FOURTEEN YEARS OF EXILE ARE OVER. THE MASTER IS COMING HOME.

THE WHOLE CITY ASSEMBLED TO WELCOME THE RETURNING PRINCES. THERE WAS JOY ALL AROUND.
LONG LIVE KING RAMA!
LONG LIVE PRINCE LAXMANA!
LONG LIVE QUEEN SITA!



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

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